



VOLUME 47 ISSUE 9

PUBLISHED SINCE 1978

8th MARCH 2024

Fortnite

Fortnite is a video game. It is made by Epic Games. I play it on my X-box. I also have it on my Nintendo Switch but I don't play on it much because the graphics are not good and it is quite laggy. The game is set on an island. There are 100 people in the game and you have to try and eliminate everyone. You can play with your friends. There have been 5 characters so far. When you start the game you start as a 'default'. You can buy skins in the item shop or you can get a battle pass and get skins from that. Skins change your character to a different person or creature.

Harris (9)

On Friday Ander, Harris, Heidi and I went to the Parnaby's house for a movie, the movie was good. On Saturday we made a Scalextrix track but it never really works. A few hours later we had Robert and Fiona over with Ian Best and Parnaby's too - we had a fun. On Sunday Nannan and Daddad came to visit and brought some nice bread. If you want to know how the Manchester derby ended, go to Ander's bit of the Fair Isle Times!!

Luca (8)

My Beach Adventure

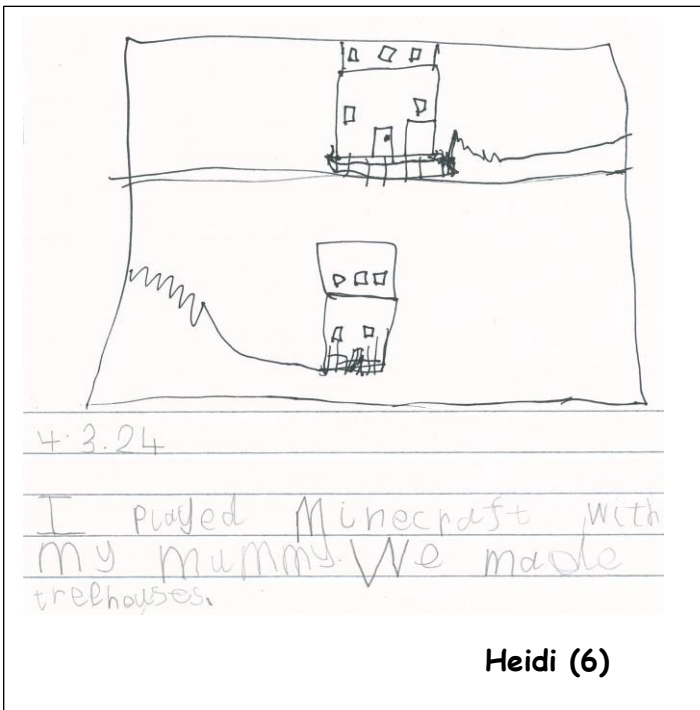
This weekend I went to Muckle Oorie Geo with Mum and Dad on our daily walk. I was very excited because this meant I got to play one of my favourite games. It involves finding some drift wood and limpet shells, then with the

limpets balanced on, we push it off into the pool at the start of the beach. We threw rocks near it to push it along however it was very windy so most of the crew fell off! They weren't helped either by Dad throwing a big rock near to the boat! Thankfully, one member of the limpet crew managed to stay on the boat whilst it docked! I was very relieved that it docked because that specific boat has survived many a sailing!

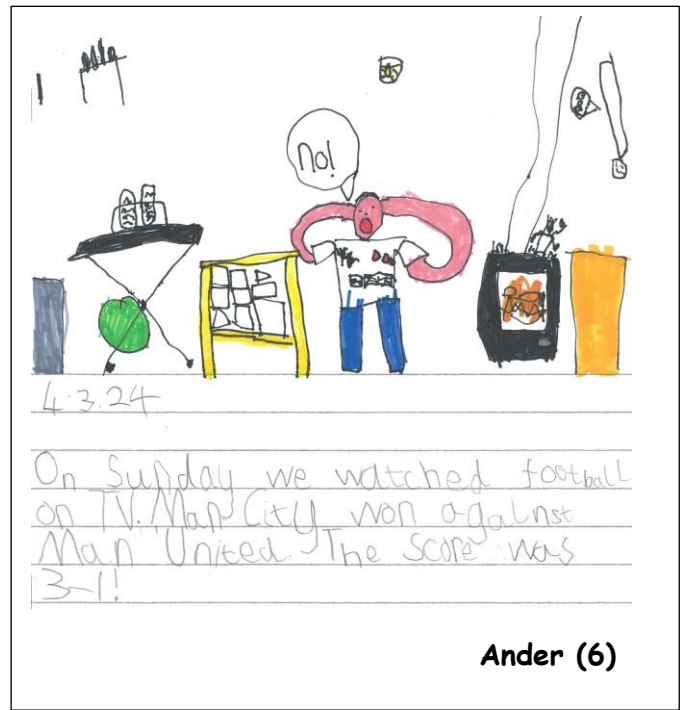
Whilst we were at the beach, we also found a lot of things. Before Muckle Uri Geo, we had gone down to Udi Geo because we had seen a red blob; it turned out to be an unbroken scoop which Dad is now using for sheep feed (he's very happy!). Later we found some Loki's Candles (old paper birch bark that has washed up from Canada*) then Mum found a Grottie Buckie! Last but not least, we also found the old test boat that we used last time, so we ran a test before the sailing. Whilst we were at the pool, I found some nice flat stones which I managed to skim. I only learnt how to skim recently so it was nice that I managed to skim them. However that was not our adventure at the beach done, we had brought a tub and good rocks for... harvesting limpets! We brought them back home and I cooked them up with some garlic and butter. They were very nice and big!

*(I looked up the information for Loki's candles) [Loki's Collection - Helen Robertson](#)

Freyja (11)



Heidi (6)



Ander (6)

WORLD BOOK DAY 2024 – THURSDAY 7TH MARCH

Fair Isle Primary School bairns and staff took part in World Book Day this week, dressing up as a character from their favourite books, as you can see we have a Bengal cat, a dog, a puppy, Boba Fett and even our brilliant weatherman Dave Wheeler (Dave co-authored and his photographs featured in the Fair Isle book)! Well done bairns!



Da week dat's awa...

My week that's awa begins last **Friday**, when, on a day out in Lerwick, my only meet-up, by chance, was with Jimmy Watt, whose wife very recently passed away while undergoing surgery in Aberdeen. Those of a certain age will remember Jimmy and Liz at the South Light from where their children began their education at Fair Isle school. It was good to meet up, while expressing sadness for the present, also remembering happier times of the past, for both of us.

Here at home, the ferry crew took advantage of a calm day to make a run to Grutness.

With extra cargoes of sheep feed etc, this time of year has always been the busiest for freight on the boat, so it was good for them to catch up, at least.

Saturday now, and it's back to wind and rain, following the pattern of the winter. Certainly little sign of spring so far, and, as we flew over Quendale and Noss yesterday, little sign of growth there either; in fact worse in places, where stock were congregated around large silage bales. St. Ninians was in fact an Isle as we passed over in the late morning, something I have not seen often.

Reading the Times in the evening, I could only be vexed that our Councillors and now others with strong opinions have seriously fallen out over the Israeli-Arab conflict. There are many conflicts, but the suffering of the people of Gaza is being screened into our living rooms, along with, in many European Cities, anti-Jewish fervour. We have lived through good times, with few people now remembering the horror of war and the years of austerity which followed.

Sunday morning, and here again it's a war with the wind to get the sheep fed. March came in with the 'lamb', but the 'lion' was just lying at the door getting his second wind. But at least it's still dry early on for getting the essentials done, which is a blessing. The Chapel is off due to the poor conditions, this fact coming to me from more than one source... I hope they are not aware of impending doom coming my way!

I watch the Manchester derby in the afternoon, where the metronome that is City outplay their neighbours. If Messrs Ferguson and Keane were there now some of these imports would be moved faster out the door, than they move on the park.

Still raining on **Monday**, but the wind has eased, although due to freshen later on. There's no ferry sailing, and that's it for the week, so I have to borrow kerosene to keep others going for the next two weeks when I am away. I likely should not bother with what I do, but you cannot spend your life in a chair, whatever age you are, otherwise the time in the chair will be less. I do have to give blood to the nurse today, although that is for my future wellbeing rather than any present ills. On a lighter note, my blood is not being given directly to the nurse... she may be under stress having come to live among us, but hopefully not to that extent!

On the wider front, I see the pier being cleared after at least two years of being used for storage, and also the surrounding area is much improved following the visit of the barge last week. The Isle could also do with a redd-up, but that's for another week that's awa.

Fresh but dry on **Tuesday**, as this SE wind seems set for a few days, and with the 'glass' rising, hopefully it will ease later on. I feed sheep and Tommy's hens, then begin renewing the wooden fence in front of Skerryholm. The old fence has (mostly) been in place for 50 years, built mostly with sticks off cable drums used in construction of the mast on Ward Hill, so it owes me nothing - until now, that is.

There's a good depth of soil so the posts get a good grip. In those days, with this ert of wind, going about the banx was often a profitable expedition, finding mostly wood for the fire, but also for jobs like I have mentioned, and occasionally for bigger projects altogether. I often reminisce that great beachcombers like Uncle Jimmy Wilson and Leogh Willie were there till the end of that era, as a trip around the banx now is no more than a walk with the dog and an enjoyment of nature, both important and enjoyable if you had not been even a small part of that previous adventure.

I enjoyed the get-together in the hall to hear of Fyntan's adventures in Antarctica. I was reminded of times in lecture rooms, and was relieved to be old enough not to have to retain any of the complicated data which to him was so familiar.

Wednesday now, much as yesterday but with spits of rain. I've put on my washing machine so will see what transpires, and it brightens up in the afternoon, so my bedding gets dried with the wind, which I reckon is better than any other. With the wind not easing, the plane service is finally called off for the day.

I had fried haddock for my dinner. The past generations, who fished whenever weather permitted, did not care for haddock at this time of year: *spents*, they called them, after spawning, and lacking in flavour. Mine tasted good, or so I thought, but likely our taste buds are so different, and mebbie even not so sensitive in some situations.

Less wind, but no drought on **Thursday**, but three planes in the morning and one in the afternoon, so everyone is where they had planned to be, even if belatedly. The third plane brought in fresh milk, and the veg. and fruit to stave off the scurvy. I remember when I was mebbie ten or eleven years old, being put ashore on Floor Stack to collect scurvy girse for Jerry Eunson (from Glasgow, but with his heart in the Isle). He took the 'girse' to Haa Maggie for analysis, and explanation of its hidden qualities, an event which I attended, and for my part in the adventure I received from her a five shillings piece - a crown which I still have, dated 1891. Jerry was a first cousin of my father, and was the eldest son of Jerry and Joan Eunson, who left Houll on the 3rd of September 1930, to live at 6 Haldane Burgess Crescent, Lerwick, for the rest of their lives.

I am visited in the afternoon by Iain and the fire inspector, a welcome visitor, as my Baxi fire is now well over 50 years old, and in need of replacement. Even parts are difficult to source now. Mail was delivered by Ruth, mine being two throwaway sales offers and a Xmas card posted in Aberdeen on the 15th of December, so perhaps a first for 2024.

So that's my week that's awa - just as well that I can add a few snippets from the archives of my memories, otherwise it would be a bit like the dogs dinner. Yes, that's what it would be, just about animal dinners.

As my Auntie Jackie said, 'Bairns, take care', and we'll see you in two weeks' time, when it will be a bit warmer and the grass will be growing again.

Jimmy at Skerryholm



We thought you might like to see this excellent haul of wood from the Isle beaches and banxes, found by current beach-combing enthusiast, Shirva David.

Following on from Jimmy's mention of the older generations combing the beaches for all kinds of useful wood and other items, it is nice to see that the sea still offers isle folk some interesting and useful finds!

Thanks to David for the photo.

ISLE NOTICES

Ferry cover for week beginning 11th March –

The *Snolda* is booked to sail from West Burrafirth on Tuesday morning. Goods coming in are being transferred by truck on Monday from Grutness. Space is already limited but hopefully we shall manage the bulk of it.

For information phone Broken Skipper (Ian) on 07554 444 819

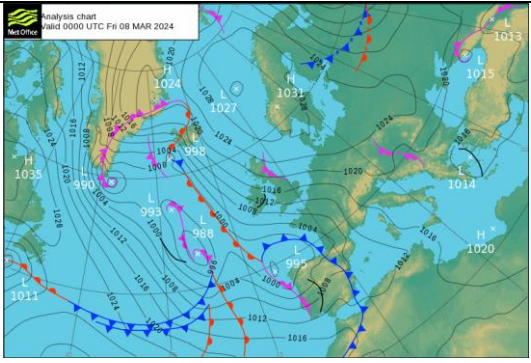
Mothering Day Sunday service – all welcome to join at the Chapel on Sunday at 11am, Pat and Neil leading the service.

Comic Relief Coffee Morning - Fair Isle Primary School will be holding a Comic Relief Coffee Morning on Friday 15th March from 10.30am - 11.30am at the Hall – all welcome to come along and enjoy lovely homebakes and tea and coffee for a good cause. Red noses optional!

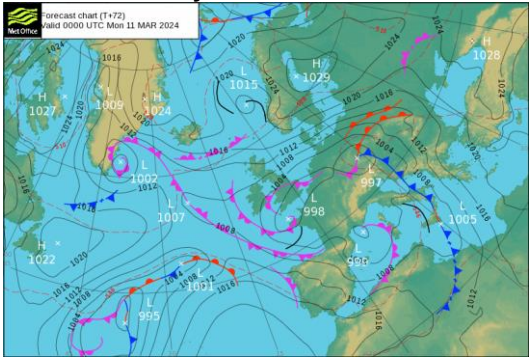


And here is a close up of Dave Wheeler our excellent weather man!

FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



**Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
Friday 8th March 2024**



**Forecast Chart 0000 UTC
Monday 11th March 2024**

GENERAL SITUATION

Friday 8th March 2024

With pressure high over Scandinavia and low to the southwest of the British Isles a moderate south-easterly airflow covers Shetland. Little changes during the next day or so though the airflow may freshen across Orkney and Fair Isle as the slow-moving depression deepens. As the low is forecast to move eastwards as a filling feature a lighter airflow follows later in the weekend and early next week as a weak ridge develops across Scotland. A new mid-Atlantic depression then brings a freshening south to south-easterly airflow by midweek this perhaps strengthening for the weekend as fronts approach Shetland.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Temperatures 6° or 7° Celsius by day, 4° overnight.

FRIDAY 8th: Mainly dry with some bright or sunny spells. F4 ESE wind freshening F5. Mainly dry with a few clear spells overnight. F5 E winds. **Sea State:** Moderate with a 2 metre SE'ly wind swell.

SATURDAY 9th: Dry and bright with sunny spells and a F5 E wind. A cloudier night but mainly dry with F4-5 ESE winds. **Sea State:** Moderate with a 2 metre SE'ly wind swell later moderate to rough at 2 to 3 metre.

SUNDAY 10th: Mainly dry and bright with F5 ESE winds. **Sea**

State: Moderate to rough with a 2 to 3 metre SE'ly wind swell.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK Temperatures around 7° Celsius by day, 4° overnight.

MONDAY 11th: Rather cloudy but mostly dry with moderate ESE winds. **Sea State:** Moderate to rough easing moderate with a 2 to 3 metre SE'ly wind swell decaying 2 metre.

TUESDAY 12th: Cloudy but mainly dry. Moderate or fresh S to SW winds. **Sea State:** Mostly slight with a 1 to 2 metre SE'ly wind swell.

WEDNESDAY 13th – SUNDAY 17th: Wednesday cloudy but dry. Lighter winds. Remainder of week and weekend probably staying mainly dry though rather cloudy with freshening SSE winds. strong by the end of the week with chance of rain by Sunday though winds easing. **Sea State Wednesday:** Mostly slight with a 1 to 2 metre SE'ly wind swell.

Dave Wheeler

