



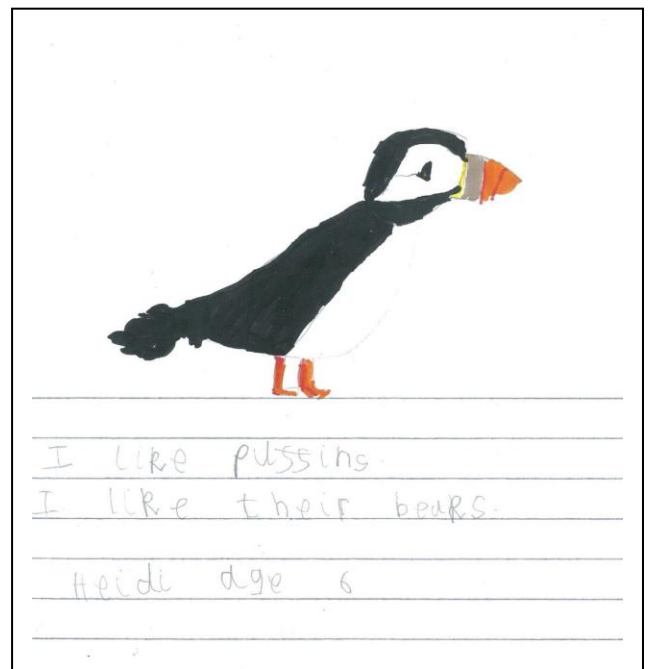
# FAIR ISLE TIMES

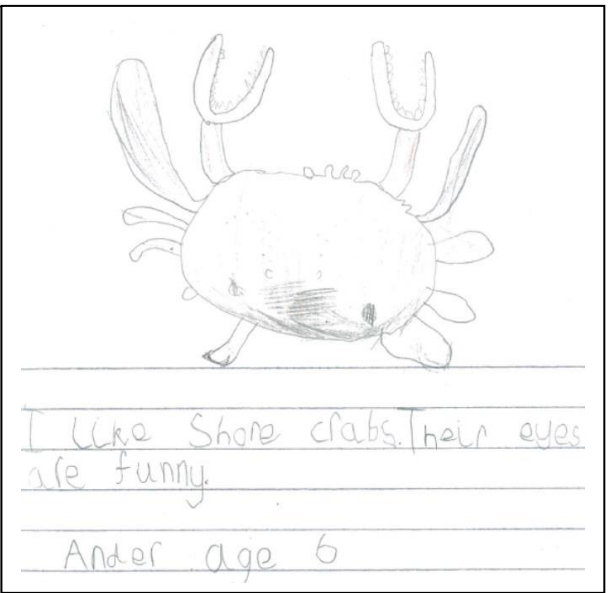
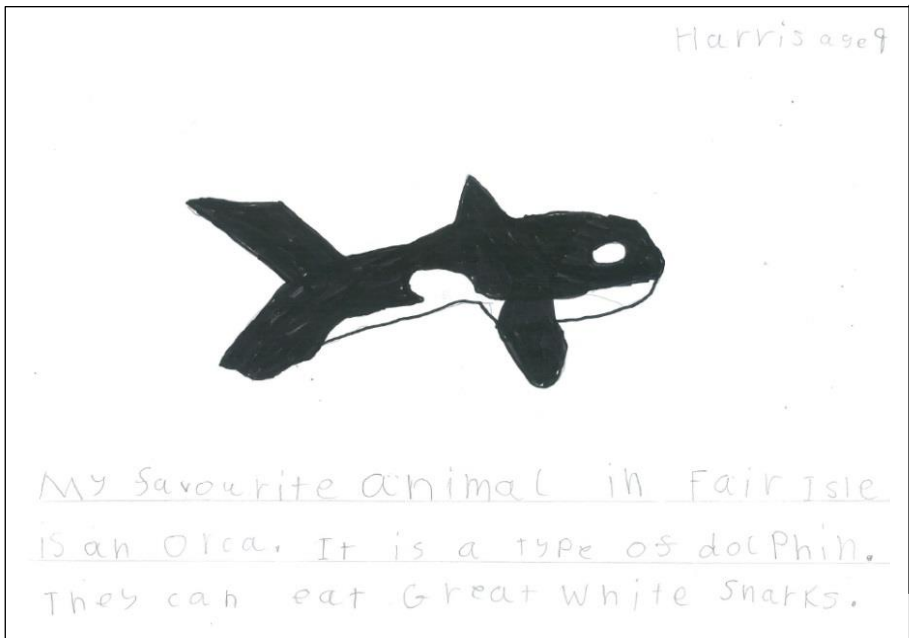
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This week the school children are on a school trip so they will have lots to say about it next week! For this week's Fair Isle Times they have picked their favourite Fair Isle animal, drawn and written about them.





Fair Isle Primary School held a coffee morning for Comic Relief last Friday and raised a fantastic £380! Well done kids and thank you to all who came along!





Freyja getting her own back on Fiona above!



**Thank you, Fair Isle!**

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Let the world know!  

**Your £380 goes a long way**

Thank you, you wonderful human being. Your donation to Red Nose Day means we can continue to help provide shelter for those who need it, put food on plates, fill the shelves of baby banks, offer someone to



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### Da week dat's awa...

Neil and I returned home from a funeral in Glasgow on the **Thursday** afternoon having left the isle first thing on Monday. At such a sad time it was a relief that the weather and transport obliged. Less fortunate was that one of my crowns broke off when eating my tea!!!

**Friday** marked "Red Nose Day" and the school organised an excellent coffee morning with games and home bakes. It was a lovely social event for the whole community and raised £380. I didn't do much in the

afternoon, caught up with mail and transplanted some violas and polyanthus that I bought from the Planticrub with some of my remaining gift vouchers, part of the gift I received on retiring, and phoned the DENTIST, I have to hope for good weather again because fortunately I've managed to get a dental appointment for Wednesday afternoon.

**Saturday** and with the sun shining and no school, Luca and Ander came up to Stoneybrek to prune/attack the *rosa rugosa* growing around the garden, using a selection of my gardening tools. They arrived with their boilersuits and a bag of their well-played-with metal cars, which they wanted to paint. Neil has lots of small tins of Airfix paint, which is perfect for the job. Neil and the boys have a ritual of "checking paint" I don't really know what that entails but with the school trip on Monday and Harry's Toyshop selling a good selection of said tins, I think a visit is in the offing. Later in the day, the continuing fine weather had prompted a conversation about fishing! By now I was ready to sit down, but they had decided to see if there were any sillocks at the pier, so I thought it better to go too and so the four of us set off to the North Haven. There wasn't much likelihood of fish, but the process was fun, we rounded off the trip with a visit to the Golden Water to look for frogs and spawn. After delivering the boys home I flopped in front of the TV and realised it wasn't just tiredness and emotion that I was feeling, so after having avoided various viruses that had circulated over the last few months, I succumbed!!!

**Sunday** was a bit of a washout until the middle of the afternoon that is, I really didn't feel well, and the weather was wet and windy. I didn't go to the chapel which was a disappointment because Susannah's services are always good. In the afternoon I put on the TV with trepidation and watched the Utd – Liverpool FA cup game. I had no expectation of a win and continued to feel such acceptance until Amad scored that wonderful, last-kick-of-the-match goal! Oh joy!!! Then back to bed.

As expected, it wasn't plane weather on **Monday** morning, so the bairn's school trip was on hold until the weather cleared. I still wasn't feeling great but as the fog cleared, I went outside and soaked up some warm sunshine and admired the variety of spring flowers appearing in my borders. Close by were snipe, lapwings and most sweetly of all, larks singing with their promise of the better days of summer. The low cloud eventually cleared Shetland, allowing a plane load of excited bairns away on a short school trip. Financial difficulties for the builders of the New Bird Obs was shocking news that none of us wanted to hear, we really appreciate the efforts of all those involved trying to keep the project going.

**Tuesday**, and a change of plans. A combination of the forecast, which looked like I wouldn't get home till next Monday and that I still wasn't feeling 100%, prompted me to cancel my dentist and eye appointment. In the end things seem to have worked out quite well because I managed to rearrange both for Monday and squeeze in a hair appointment too, fingers and toes crossed!

**Wednesday** proved to be a lovely day and the washing was on the line early. Neil dug up the last of our parsnips, which have been very good this year and there are still plenty of carrots, but they do need to be eaten soon, just ask if you want any, please!!! The polyhus is completely ready for the new growing season now and I harvested the rest of the leeks, they are so clean compared to any grown outside. My tomato and chilli plants are coming on well, it'll be courgettes, French beans and cucumbers to sow next plus more salad crops. Spring is very apparent in the air too, so many blackbirds, fieldfares, thrushes and the redwings with their distinctive call. It seemed like thousands of them flew overhead, their silhouettes dark against a deep blue sky, beautiful. With no boat it was good to get 3 planes today, the middle one being for fresh goods and the third one filled with the returning school, from what seems to have been a very successful trip. We dropped off some veg for Eileen and saw two very tired little boys sitting on the sofa. As the wind picked up, I moved tubs of bulbs into shelter and placed protective stones close to plants that will be vulnerable to the forecasted gales of Thurs and Fri. Still not feeling back to normal but still got quite a lot done, a long walk would have been nice today, perhaps to look for the orcas that were spotted off the south end of the isle! Good to see Alex and the AWs back.

**Thursday**, I could hear a curlew calling first thing, such a beautiful plaintive sound and one described to me as “whaaps cryin’ fur weet” but it was too late, the rain had already started. There’s always something to do and some of the more tedious tasks couldn’t be avoided this morning, so after some emails, bits of accounting and ordering, my list got a lot smaller. Crossing items off a to-do list is so satisfying. In the afternoon meals on wheels arrived with a delicious, freshly made quiche and some still warm, hot cross buns, we are so lucky, thank you Eileen (*Editor: sadly not everyone gets quiche and buns, just the editor’s poorly mum!!*)

Pat, Lower Stoneybrek

## **ISLE NOTICES**

**Chapel** – this Sunday at 11am all welcome to join, John leading the service.

**Good Shepherd sailing** – The boat is planning to sail mid-morning Monday (weather/planes permitting to get Skipper Steven home!) and again Tuesday at normal time. Please call the sailing info line on 01596 743978 or Ian’s mobile for more info

**Next week’s Fair Isle Times** will be the final one of the term before the school breaks up for the Easter holidays. Please send any items through to Hollie and Eileen before Thursday please.

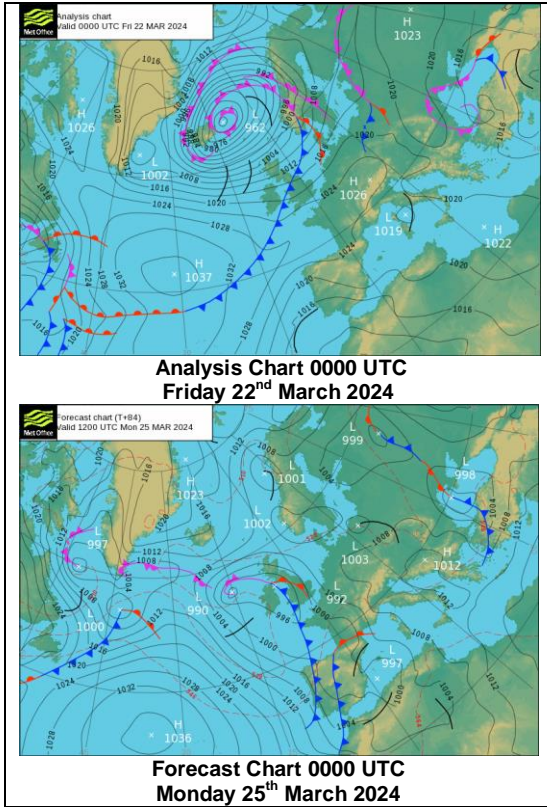
Thanks!

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**Thank you from the bairns to our lovely former school cook and friend Sue who sent a lovely Easter parcel to the kids. Thanks Sue, we miss you and hope you have a happy Easter too!!**



**FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST**



**GENERAL SITUATION**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024**

A deep depression east of Iceland results in a strong and showery westerly airflow over northern Scotland. The low is expected to track east just north of Shetland tonight resulting in a colder north-westerly then northerly this weekend. As the low dips southeast past Shetland towards Denmark pressure then builds across the area bringing a slacker airflow later Sunday into Monday. Low pressure developing to the west is forecast to swing down past SW England overnight to be over Biscay by Tuesday. With low pressure persisting SW of the British Isles and building pressure across Iceland an east to northeasterly airflow is likely over the Northern Isle for the remainder of next week.

**OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND** Temperatures 6° to 8° Celsius by day, 3° or 4° overnight. A cold night Sunday with 1° and risk of ice patches.

**FRIDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Frequent often heavy showers and F6-7 WSW to W wind, locally gale F8 and occasionally severe gale F9. Further showers overnight with strong to gale winds becoming NW. **Sea State:** Mainly high with a 7 metre W'ly wind swell but moderate to rough inshore east of Shetland at 2 to 3 metre.

**SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Showers, wintry at times with hail and risk of thunder. A chilly F6-7 NW wind tending N. Similar overnight.

**Sea State:** Very rough with a 5 metre W'ly wind swell but mostly moderate inshore east of Shetland at 2 metre.

**SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup>:** A drier brighter day. A F5-6 N breeze easing leading to risk of an overnight frost. **Sea State:** Mostly rough with a 3 to 4 metre N'ly wind swell.

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

**MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup>:** With light to moderate NNE winds and clear spells the risk of frost and ice patches to start. A mainly dry day. **Sea State:** Becoming mostly moderate with a 2 metre NNE'ly wind swell.

**TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup>:** Rather cloudy, mainly dry at first with chance of showery rain later. A moderate ENE breeze.

**Sea State:** Mostly moderate with a 2 metre NNE'ly wind swell.

**WEDNESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> – SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup>:** Generally cloudy with a few showers possible. Feeling cool in a mainly moderate NE to E breeze. **Sea State Wednesday:** Mostly moderate with a 2 metre NE'ly wind swell.

**Dave Wheeler**

