

FAIR IS THE TIMES

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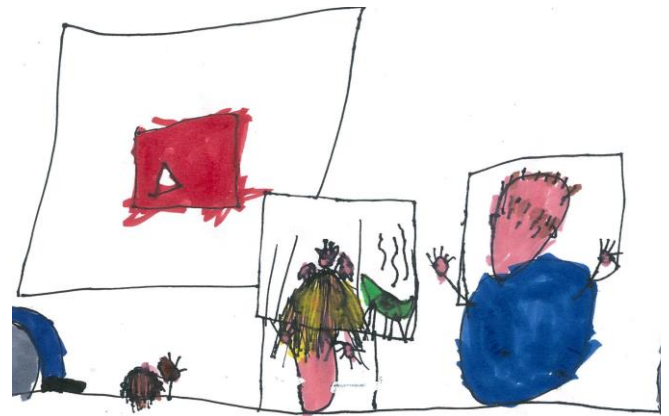
Hill Rota

On the 23.4.24 we went on our hill rota and we found a sheep with infected udders so we messaged Iain and kept on going, until we came across a lamb with no mother in sight. So we decided to move along and see if it had found its mum when we came back, but this lamb had a mind of its own, and when we went past, it had gotten stuck in a burn, not even a very deep burn. So we picked it up and brought it to some other sheep in the car. But when we came back, the luck hadn't turned much better. The lamb had no mother and was lying down, on the side of a hill. This was the big decision we had to make - our decision was to put it to Setter. We asked Amy and she said it was ok. Iain tried to get the lamb a new mum 2 times but wasn't successful yet which shows it must be difficult. The lamb had a really nice brown bit on its back.

Luca (9)



Heidi (6)



29.4.24
 Heidi is going in to Youth
 I am playing grounded.
 Daddy is playing Solitaire.

Ander (6)



29.4.24
 We are going to get a
 climbing frame. I am so
 excited.

Hollie and I are delighted with Harris' piece of writing about marble games he invented. Writing and spelling are tricky areas for Harris who has Dyslexia so we are over the moon with his hard work and effort this week!

Marble Game

I made a Marble game up, there are three different game modes that you can play. The first one is when you roll two Marbles together, along the pencil groove on your desk. If one Marble goes out the other Marble wins. If both Marbles roll out at the same time then it is a tie. The rounds go up to ten.

The second game is when you roll a Marble along the top of a curved bookcase and try to make it get to the end.

The third game is when you put two Marbles on a round table and mix them up with your hands until one falls off. The one that falls off loses and the one that hasn't fallen off wins. But if both of them fall and hit the ground at the same time it is a tie. If both of them fall at the same time and one hits the ground first the other Marble wins.

My Weekend

This weekend Grace came in, which I was really happy about, because it had been ages since I saw her and there was a new Minecraft update which includes armadillos! We also played Robo Rally whilst she was here. Grace just won, but it was a really fun game although the course was really hard because the checkpoints you had to reach kept moving.

We had a very chilled morning on Saturday because we watched some Star Wars on TV with sausage and haggis rolls for breakfast. Later we walked over to Bunes along the coast because we had to do hill rota. When the hill sheep are lambing all the crofters take it in turns to cover certain areas to check on the lambing sheep and lambs. However, on the way up it started pouring with rain so we hid in Finniequoy, under the big pine. We made a cool shelter by putting the backpack above our heads and balancing it with sticks and made up a story whilst we were waiting for the rain to stop. A few minutes later we saw a waxwing perch right above our heads in the tree. Finally when the rain had cleared we wandered up to Bunes to check there. We were quite tired by this point and the sun was shining so we had a rest in the sunshine and sunbathed. By then it was getting late and we were going to Kenaby for cake at 4pm, so we wandered back and got some very yummy lemon drizzle cake - thanks Hannah!

On Sunday we listened to some really nice music at Chapel because Rachel was playing with a flautist visiting from the Netherlands. Afterwards we went to Pat's for coffee and sourdough/biscuits and Ander and I made two cool spy dens. When we got back we had Ukrainian stuffed buns, which was a yummy treat, then we played a game and Grace and I did some more Minecraft. By then it was time for tea - we had lamb shanks with roast totties. I had a fabulous weekend!

Freyja (11)

In this week's *week dat's awa*, we hear from two visitors to Fair Isle who are here to experience a bit of true island life thanks to host-with-the-most, Steven Wilson at Koolin

Hello Fair Isle! In case we haven't met, my name is Emma and I'm visiting from New York City this month. I didn't really know what to expect from Fair Isle apart from sheep farms and puffins, but this week has gone beyond my expectations. I often find myself just staring out the window for ten, twenty minutes at a time looking out into the ocean.

Steve has been an incredible host so far, and I immediately felt at home here. Some of the most exciting moments of the week have been going out on the boat trapping lobster and crab with him. Back in New York I'm a chef, and it feels like a gift to be able to catch and cook such beautiful food. One of my first nights I think I ate an entire pound of lobster and crab that we had caught the same day!

What a treat to be here, I hope to meet you all soon.

Emma



Fair Isle – by Spike Pope

I've been volunteering since the start of 2024, helping out across organic farms and smallholdings in the West Country and now on Fair Isle. I've been lucky enough to work alongside Steven and lend a hand to other crofters over this lambing period. It's been an amazing time of year to come and to learn so much about it. Thanks to Andy, Marie and Steven for all the tips and tricks.

My days have been pretty varied - general maintenance jobs around the croft, minor dyke repair jobs here and there, painting and sprucing up the tractor and often clearing sh*te out of many of Steven's sheds. Away from work hours I've enjoyed teaching Steven how to catch fish and even the odd rabbit.

It's been a surreal experience thus far and unlike anything I've done or seen before. There's an amazing community here on Fair Isle and so many hospitable islanders - I quite fancy a croft here myself!

Spike



Caption Competition

Thanks to all of you who have sent in responses to the caption competition last week, some very funny ones, even some unpublishable hilarious ideas!

Here are some of the best!

"Skipping lambs wi' scuppered skipper" Nick

"I am sorry to brother you, but I thought your "2 for 1" offer would include the second head!" Rafael

"Sorry Amazon, I didn't order this size" Ross

"Now what do I do?" John (*Editor: cheeky – your son will have you for that, John!!*)

"No Sheena, these are not my new relief crew!"
Eileen

"I've gotten a caddy!" Neil

"That's not an instrument to use when you're multi-tasking (ouch)" Stuart, Chroma

"Ian seen in earnest conversation with SIC explaining what would happen if he doesn't get a new boat"
Dave B

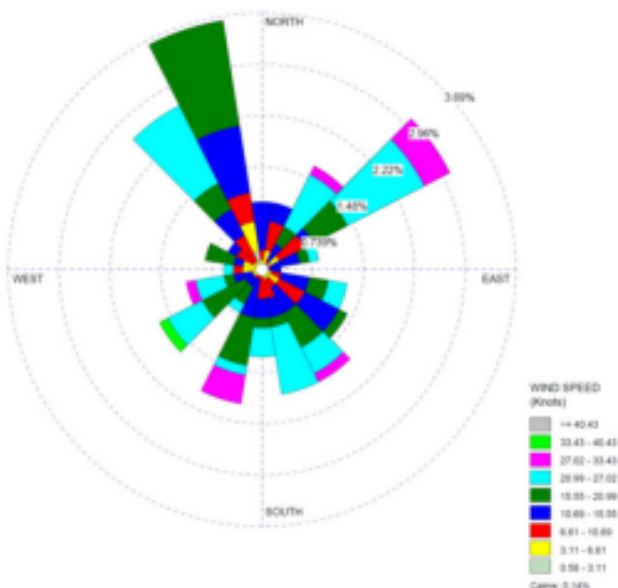


FAIR ISLE WEATHER

RECORDED AT FIELD

	APRIL 2024	1971-2000	Difference or %
Mean maximum temperature	8.3 °C	7.3 °C	1.0
Mean minimum temperature	5.0 °C	4.0 °C	1.1
Mean daily temperature	6.5 °C	5.6 °C	0.9
Mean grass minimum	3.2 °C		
Mean 30cm earth temperature	6.9 °C	6.0 °C	0.9
Mean 100cm earth temperature	6.9 °C	5.8 °C	1.0
Mean sea temperature	7.5 °C	7.5 °C	0.0
Mean sea-level pressure	1008.0 hPa	1013.3 hPa	-5.3
Mean relative humidity	79.5 %	84.3 %	-4.8
Total rainfall	78.4 mm	47.7 mm	164.4 %
Wet days => 1 mm	14 days	11.8 days	2.2
Sunshine	169.6 hours	148.7 hours	114.1 %
Days with fog at 09h	0 days	1.7 days	-1.7
Days with fog during 24h	6 days	6.1 days	-0.1
Air frosts	1 days	2.0 days	-1.0
Grass frosts	3 days	7.2 days	-4.2
Hail	5 days	7.3 days	-2.3
Snow/sleet	5 days	6.4 days	-1.4
Snow lying at 09h	0 days	0.6 days	-0.6
Gale	2 days	2.3 days	-0.3

Maximum daily mean temp.	9.9 °C	12 th
Minimum daily mean temp.	3.3 °C	5 th
Highest maximum	11.6 °C	12 th
Lowest day maximum	5.3 °C	5 th
Highest night minimum	8.8 °C	12 th
Lowest minimum	-0.3 °C	5 th
Lowest grass minimum	-5.5 °C	5 th
Wettest day	18.6 mm	28 th
Sunniest day	11.4 hours	30 th
Highest mean daily wind speed	26.7 knots	2 nd
Highest gust	50 knots	13 th



In a release of the monthly statistics the Met Office say this April has been a continuation of the past few months: **often wet, windy and unsettled**. Across the UK there was around one and half times more rain than average and therefore provisionally this is the sixth wettest April on record and the wettest April since 2012.

Fair Isle rainfall was up by a similar amount making this our third wettest April since I began keeping weather records in 1974. Wettest was April 1979 with 103.3mm (the year with no summer!), then 1985 90.6mm. A contrasting note - April is also our driest month with just 1.0mm recorded in April 1974! Wettest of any month? August 2014 with 219.6mm, three times the August average! Wettest day? 9th August 2014 when I recorded 132.6mm in the 24 hours (09h 9th - 09h 10th). Quite surprising 12.6 and 10.6 hours sunshine were recorded either side of the 9th - and overall, despite being so wet, August 2014 was also a sunny month with 225.3 hours (152%).

The fact these two months, August 2014 and this April were wet and yet sunny highlights an interesting observation: looking at the 30 year climate periods the Met Office and I use: 1961 - 1990, 1971 - 2000, 1981 - 2010, 1991 - 2020 annual figures for these periods would suggest that Fair Isle is becoming sunnier while at the same time getting wetter!

Dave Wheeler

Brilliant birds - Fair Isle was buzzing with birds on Thursday afternoon as a huge fall of migrants landed on the Isle in the glorious spring sunshine. Thanks to Jonnie of Fair Isle Bird Observatory for these photos of 3 special sightings. You can keep up to date with latest sighting via the FIBO website:

https://www.fairislebirdobs.co.uk/latest_sightings.html



Red-backed shrike



Collared flycatcher



Wryneck

ISLE NOTICES

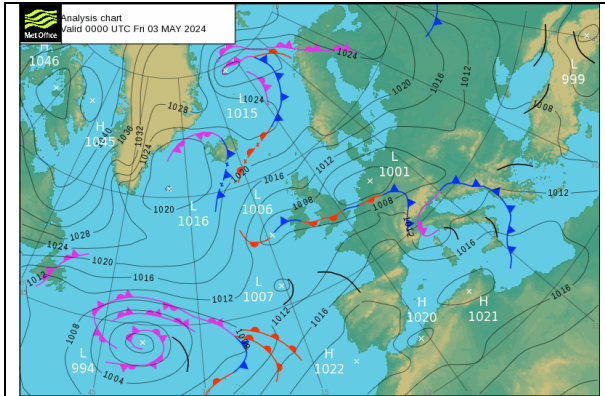
NTS visit – Clea Warner and Sheona Leonard are due to visit the isle on Wednesday with Philip Long, Chief Exec of NTS and with members from the conservation team. There will be an open meeting in the Committee Room on Wednesday evening at 7pm for the NTS to share updates with the isle. Anyone wanting to meet with Sheona and Clea in private, please contact Eileen asap to plan a time.

Chapel – all welcome to join at 11am on Sunday, Susannah will be leading the service.

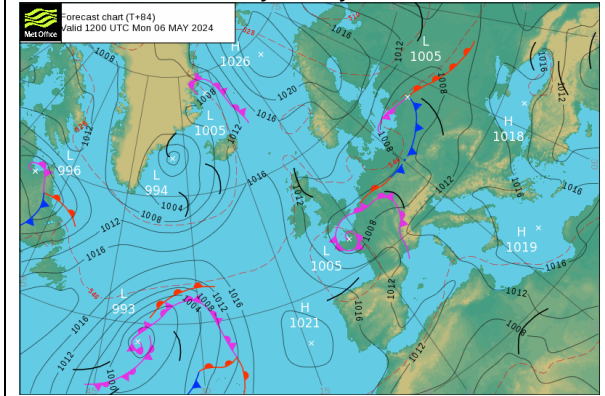
Caddy lamb wanted - Does anyone have a spare caddy they would let me have - I have a lonely lamb who really wants a friend! Thank you in advance, Rachel, Barkland

First cruise ships of the year! Cruise ship Ocean Nova will be visiting the isle on Wednesday morning and again on Friday afternoon. The hall will be set up on Tuesday evening so if you would like a stall (more the merrier!) please set up Tuesday evening. Any questions, please ask me! Eileen

FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



**Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
Friday 3rd May 2024**



**Forecast Chart 1200 UTC
Monday 6th May 2024**

GENERAL SITUATION

Friday 3rd May 2024

Shallow low pressure across the south of the UK extends across the whole of the British Isles during the weekend, maintaining a mainly light mild and moist southeast to easterly airflow across the north of Scotland. The centre of low pressure moves away with pressure then building from the southwest to form an anticyclone across the UK by mid-week. As this eases eastwards an Atlantic weather front perhaps affects northern Scotland by the weekend.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Temperatures 13° or 14° Celsius today, 15° just possible. Haar is likely to bring cooler temperatures over the weekend with highs limited to 10° or 11°. Overnight temperatures generally 7° or 8°.

FRIDAY 3rd: Dry and sunny. F3-4 E wind. Dry and mainly clear overnight. **Sea State:** Slight with a 1 metre E'ly wind swell.

SATURDAY 4th: Though a dry day after a few hours of warm sunshine mist and low cloud will reach us probably about 10am. F4 ESE winds. Low cloud mist or fog persists overnight possibly with some drizzle. **Sea State:** Mainly slight with a 1 metre E'ly wind swell.

SUNDAY 5th: Mostly dry with F3-4 winds. Perhaps some temporary brightness during the day as mist or fog temporarily thins. **Sea State:** Slight with a 1 metre ESE'ly wind swell.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK Temperatures 10° or 11°

Celsius by day, around 8° overnight.

MONDAY 6th: Mainly dry but cloudy perhaps some temporary brightness during the day as mist or fog temporarily thins. Moderate or light ESE winds. **Sea State:** Slight with a 1 metre E'ly wind swell. **TUESDAY 7th:** Rather cloudy with chance of showers later. Moderate winds. **Sea State:** Slight with a 1 metre swell. **WEDNESDAY 8th – SUNDAY 12th:** Brighter and clearer conditions with chance of showers Wednesday otherwise mainly dry with variable cloud amounts until the weekend when rain and mist may arrive from the west. **Sea State Wednesday:** Slight with a 1 metre swell.

Today is another warm and sunny day in Fair Isle. We may see yesterday's 13.5° maximum - the highest this year topped. Previous was 11.6° on the 12th April. Yesterday was also the sunniest with 13.3 hours sunshine. That may also be beaten as we 'lost' some 30 minutes due to cloud yesterday morning. 11.4 hours previous highest on 30th April.

Dave Wheeler

