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Freyja has worked incredibly hard on her final piece of primary school creative writing. Her vocabulary choices and imagination are, as always, superb! On this piece, she has focused on direct speech, onomatopoeia, ellipses and similes. I am sure you will enjoy her story!

The Forest's Magic - Part 1
by Freyja Parnaby

WHIZZ! Stardust sprinted past the poisonous ivy, through the vines and hopped over the flowing lake. She could feel the bouncy moss and spear-like grass beneath her feet. Speckled emerald light patterned the ground, beaming through the leaves. Almost there! Could this be her best time yet? Metres away from the finish line, she heard something. Looks like her training would have to wait. As she dashed over to the mysterious noise, she ascended, getting a perfect view of the village. The beautiful thatched tree houses, the towering trees and best of all, the river. You see, Stardust or any of the elves weren't allowed to cross the river. That's where the pixies lived, the evil dangerous pixies (well at least that's what the elves thought). There that noise was again! By now she was near the boundary where the magic shield protected them from the outside world but... as she neared the shield, there were fragments of the outside world spilling through ... so that's what she could hear, humans!

Stardust had only heard the stories about humans back in the day when pixies and elves worked together before the pixies betrayed them, before they stole the crown. Then... oh no ... oh no, no, no! Chainsaws – the most lethal of human things! As she raced back to the village, she could smell the summer flowers in bloom, that comforting earthy smell being blown about by the gentle breeze. She could hear the trickling streams and the beautiful chattering melody of the birds. Her heart beating fast, her feet stomping on the twigs, deer running in all directions, then, THUD! BAM! AAAH! Stardust tumbled uncontrollably down... down... down. Then, strangely, another scream, not an elf scream, a different high-pitched scream. Pulling out her daggers, Stardust jumped to her feet! She'd rolled down a valley, one she'd never been in before. She looked across and there was the lake! But nestled in the weeds, was a very old rotting bridge, one from the alliance of the elves and pixies. Suddenly, THWAK!

Hours later, she opened her eyes, her head was pounding and all she could see was the gentle flicker of a torch. "Where... am I?" muttered Stardust in a weak voice. Panic filled her fuzzy brain as what had happened soaked in. As Stardust tried to sit up, something dug into her arms and chest. Ropes! Never mind, this could be dealt with. In a flash, she cut the ropes and jumped up (well more slowly rose) then tottered around the room. After recovering next to the wall, she got her senses back, pulling out her daggers yet again (looked like her captor wasn't that smart after all). All of a sudden, whoosh! The curtain around the hut that she was in flew open. Then rather randomly it seemed, Stardust shouted, "BOO!"

"Ahh," there was the same scream she heard earlier.

"How dare you catch an elf of the Galax tribe!" (Elves lived in different villages all within 10km of each other, that way if you needed help someone was near)

"Nice to meet you to" replied the pixie.

"Right, if you don't mind, I've got some elves to warn!" Stardust snapped!

The pixie sighed, "Well I thought I'd try and get along but, if it's like that, guards are surrounding the hut right now."

“No you don’t understand!” exclaimed Stardust. “The magic shield is cracking! The humans are right outside with chainsaws!”

“You’re... you’re tricking me right? HA! And to think I nearly fell for that!” she exclaimed, marching off.

Later that night, after a small meal of nuts and berries, the pixie she met earlier came in, untied the fresh ropes and put all her weapons and Stardust’s daggers on a table. “Right, we definitely got off on the wrong foot so why don’t we make an alliance? Why do the elves and pixies hate each other anyway?” the pixie muttered hopefully.

“Eurgh... you’re impossible! Because the pixies stole the crown, then ran off and hid it who knows where!”

“Ah that would do it. But that’s not my fault, is it? Oh by the way, I’m Rose from the Ower tribe. That’s where you are now.”

“Ok, I wasn’t kidding Rose, I... I could show you the shield but it’s on the Elf Side and I could be imprisoned if we got caught, not to mention what they’d do to you.”

So, in the inky blackness of the sky, they set off. Rose and Stardust, the unlikely duo. Stardust marvelled at the path down to the river, however like the bridge, this path had been forgotten long ago. This though did not take away the beauty of it. Rather than sharpened stakes surrounding the Galax village, there was row after row of flowers, herbs and veg surrounding the Ower tribe.

An hour or so later, Stardust reached the training path, Rose followed close behind. This was bad, there were even more gaps in the shield. Rose’s eyes looked like saucers as she saw the damage!

“Oh I see you weren’t kidding,” Rose mentioned sarcastically.

“No, I was not... kidding,” Stardust sighed.

“Right let’s think about this. The magic is getting old so we need to renew it. How do we do that?”

“Well...er...um not s-sure?” stuttered Stardust.

“You know something don’t you?” asked Rose raising her eyebrows.

“When you say know something would ‘knowing where the sacred spell book is kept because I’m cousins with the prince’ count as knowing something?” gibbered Stardust.

“YES OBVIOUSLY IT WOULD COUNT!” yelled Rose.

“Ok, so if my Aunt and Uncle find out that the book is missing my entire family and probably friends will be imprisoned until it’s found!”

“I’m sure they can deal with a week of imprisonment, they’ve been through worse, so have I. When the pixies got banished from this side of the river we had to make an entire new village in the winter. I had no bed, no house, and at some points, no family. They had to find food so left to go to the other side of the river. They didn’t come back for 6 whole months! I was five!” cried Rose now in tears.

“6 months - the original punishment for pixies on the wrong side of the river!” realised Stardust “I didn’t know they did that to everyone. I thought it was just the thieves. They were lying.”

“Right we’ve got to focus. Let’s steal the book, put in a fake, do the spell and save the day!” Rose suggested.

“Fine” stardust agreed bluntly.

..... find out how the story ends in Part 2 next week!

Friday 7th – Sunday 9th June

Join us for a weekend of fun marine activities – all welcome!

Friday

A day of activities with the school

- 9.15am Marine mammal activities with Emma Steel from Whale and Dolphin Conservation at the school
- 11am listening for marine mammals, invasive non-native species checks and GoPro filming at North Haven

An evening of DR MPA marine-themed talks at the hall from 7.30pm

- **With talks from:** Katie Cubbon (Fair Isle DR MPA), Emma Steel (WDC - Shorewatch), Karen Hall (NatureScot - Fair Isle Seawatch sightings data and Fair Isle and Shetland IMMA status), Tanya Riley (UHI Shetland - Fair Isle benthic habitat project) as well as an update from FIBO.....tea and coffee!

Saturday

10am – 12.30pm

- Shorewatch training and surveying at Southlight

From 2.30pm – 6pm

- 2.30pm FIBO Kittiwake and Puffin plot watch at South Green
- 3.30pm Rockpooling and intertidal surveys at Muckle Uri Geo
- 4.30 Marine species identification and seaweed pressing at the hall

Sunday

From 2pm – 3pm

- Marine litter picking and recording from Kirki to Muckle Uri Geo

From 3pm onwards at the hall

- More marine species identification and seaweed pressing
- School GoPro video showcase!

This week we hear from FIBO Warden, Alex, at the South Lighthouse, with an update on what was a wonderful May...

What a spring this has been for migrant birds on Fair Isle, with records tumbling left and right as warm south-easterly winds have brought exceptional numbers of both common and scarce migrants to the isle's shores. After a very pleasant but generally unremarkable April, May saw multiple spring arrivals of birds the likes of which many thought no longer possible, lost to the past amongst the shifting baselines of population decline.

Light, sunny SE winds on 2nd May set the stage for the first of what was to be a month of multiple falls of spring migrants, with birds beginning to drop out of the sky from early afternoon. Lesser Whitethroats, Pied Flycatchers, Redstarts and Willow Warblers made up the bulk of this first wave, with the former making landfall in record-breaking numbers. The isle's earliest-ever records of Red-backed Shrike and Icterine Warbler added some early scarcity to the mixture, with Wrynecks, Wood Warblers and Bluethroats bringing further excitement and splashes of colour. The discovery of a dazzling male Collared Flycatcher on the cliffs of Gunnawark made for the pièce de resistance of an incredible day of witnessing avian migration in action.



Left: Wood warbler

The next day's census showed that birds had continued to arrive late into the evening, with many migrant totals creeping up on the day before. The Lesser Whitethroat record was broken once again, with day totals of Pied Flycatcher, Redstart and Whinchat all representing the highest spring counts since a similarly impressive fall in 1996. Birds continued to be added over the next few days, with Quail, Nightingale, Garganey, Little Bunting and

Rosefinch all putting in appearances through the next week.

A quieter period, punctuated by visits from a Black Kite, two different Little Ringed Plovers and the isle's earliest-ever Marsh Warbler, was brought to an end by another brilliant arrival on 17th May, this time with a single focus – Red-backed Shrikes! They were everywhere, with birds fly-catching from fence lines, down on the beaches and banks, and even groups of birds out on the wild open heather. With so many of these beautiful and charismatic birds around the isle, it was no surprise that the evening's conservative count of 32 individuals represented the isle's 2nd highest count, but even that record wasn't to last long...



Icterine Warbler



Red-backed Shrike and Bluethroat

A few days later on 22nd May, lightning struck again with a second major fall of Red-backed Shrikes – this time bringing a minimum of 37 individuals, breaking the all-time day record. On this occasion they weren't travelling alone, with an astounding 34 Icterine Warblers also totted up around the isle – more than three times the isle's previous record count! A supporting cast of a Blyth's Reed Warbler, six Marsh Warblers, seven Bluethroats, another Nightingale and a rare spring Barred Warbler made for another exhilarating Fair Isle afternoon – there really is nowhere else in the UK to experience such an exciting and varied fall of spring migrants, and witness these birds so far outside of their usual context.

As is often the case, the latter part of the month brought some rarer species after the earlier impressive numbers, with a fine female Rustic Bunting, a rather less fine female Subalpine Warbler, and a brief Tawny Pipit all excellent birds in a UK context. A pair of Dotterel and two separate Nightjars added further quality, as numbers of common and scarce migrants fluctuated day-to-day.

I could not sum up the month of May in the isle without mentioning one very special bird – the gorgeous smoky-blue Marmora's Warbler found on 29th. A first record for the isle, it gave excellent views to its appreciative observers in the late afternoon sun above Steensi, taking regular naps in sheltered sunny spots – well-deserved after its epic journey! Fortunately, the combination of rest and plenty of juicy craneflies did the trick, and the next day it had perked up and moved to the Gully trap, allowing everyone to get even better views of this handsome species in the hand, and even giving bursts of song.



Right: Marmora's warbler

With June upon us, our focus shifts to seabird monitoring work, but there's time left in the spring for another Fair Isle surprise yet...



Caption Competition Time!

"If we make tea more workers will come!" Ian

Charlie: "Wonder if it'll make a proper Yorkshire brew if I kick this?"

Konrad: "Right, time for proper Polish tea, hit it Charlie!!"

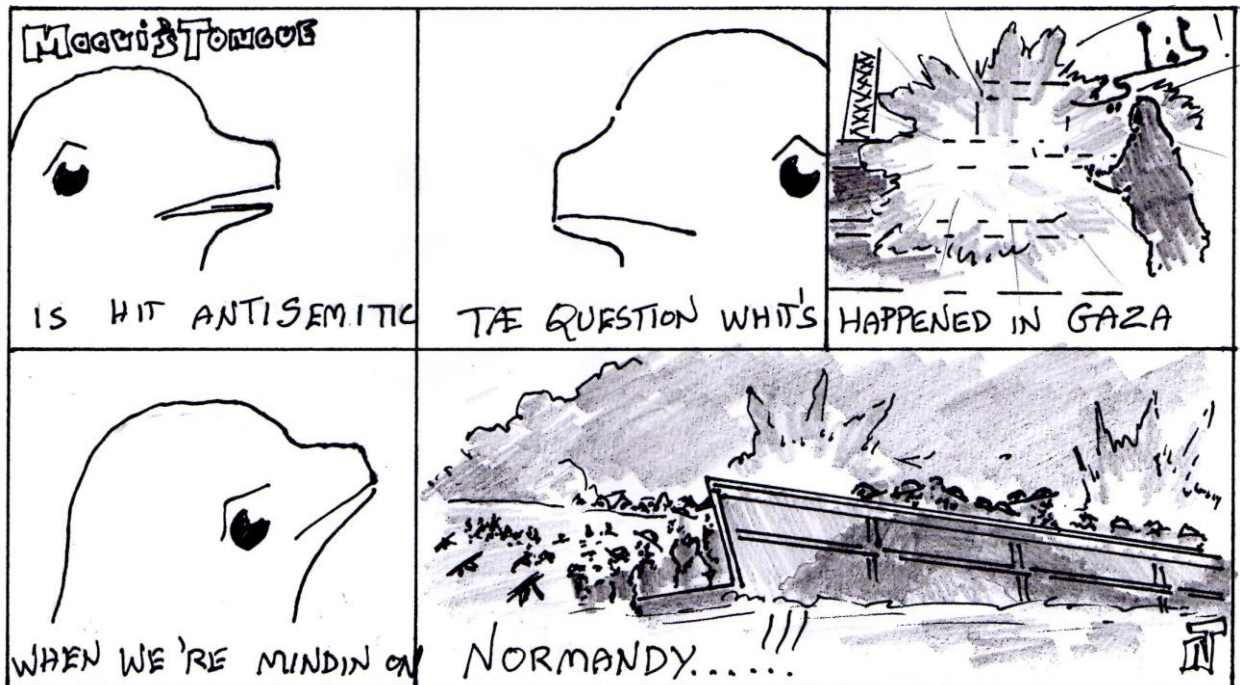
Eileen

"Ask for a skinny caramel frappuccino, I dare you"

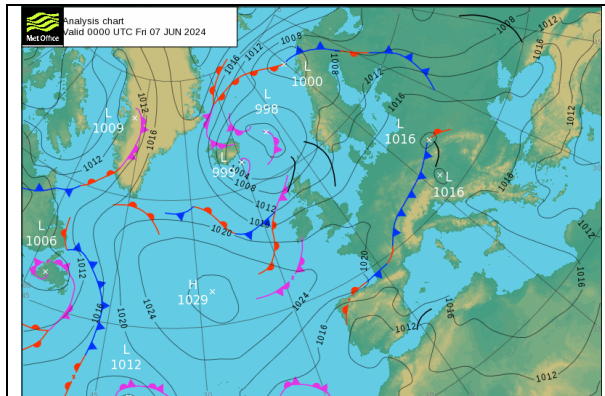
"Shall I be mother?" Jonnie

ISLE NOTICES

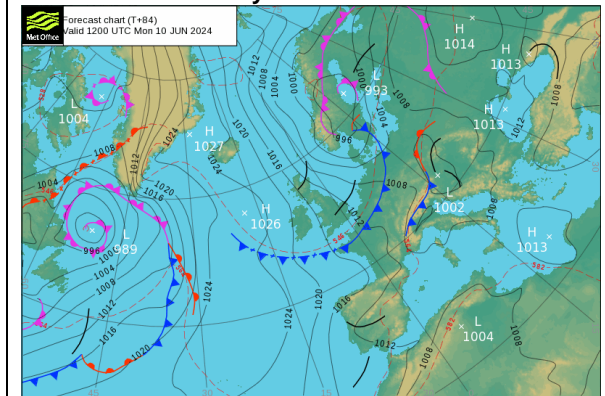
- Fair Isle Committee Meeting. Wednesday 12th June 7.30pm, Fair Isle Hall Committee Room, all members welcome
- No chapel this Sunday due to visiting cruise ship and MPA events
- Talk on marine life and research around Fair Isle, tonight at the Hall at 7.30, tea, coffee and homebakes after the talk. All very welcome to join.



FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
Friday 7th June 2024



Forecast Chart 1200 UTC
Monday 10th June 2024

GENERAL SITUATION Friday 7th June 2024

Low pressure east of Iceland presently feeds a cool Polar maritime airflow down across Scotland. During the next few days as the filling low drifts southeast, while freshening a northerly airflow the air is less Polar and more Continental. An Atlantic anticyclone is expected to extend a ridge of high pressure towards Western Scotland late in the weekend but quickly declines allowing a shallow Icelandic low to slip south east over the Northern Isles early next week. The high is forecast to drift south as filling low pressure south of Iceland drifts towards western Scotland later in the week.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Temperatures 9° during the day and 7° overnight.

FRIDAY 7th: Showers, occasionally heavy with sunny spells between. F4-5 SW wind increasing F5-6 W. Frequent showers overnight, heavy at times bringing risk hail, thunder, perhaps merging to longer periods of rain at times. Strong winds easing across Shetland, remaining strong over Fair Isle and Orkney.

Sea State: Moderate to rough with a 2 to 3 metre W wind swell. Moderate inshore east of Shetland.

SATURDAY 8th: Frequent showers at first the morning

with risk of hail and thunder, becoming lighter and less frequent through the afternoon. F5-6 W wind becoming NW F4-5 later.

Sea State: Moderate to rough with a 2 to 3 metre W wind swell south and west of Shetland, slight to moderate to the east and north.

SUNDAY 9th: The occasional shower, otherwise mainly dry with some bright or sunny spells. F5-6 NW to N winds. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate with a 2 metre N wind swell but moderate to rough at 2 to 3 metre west and north of Shetland.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK Temperatures 9° or 10° Celsius by day, 8° overnight.

MONDAY 10th: Rather cloudy, mainly dry at first but chance of showery rain later. A fresh to strong NW breeze.

Sea State: Moderate to rough with a 3 to 4 metre N wind swell.

TUESDAY 11th: Mainly dry with some bright or sunny spells and a moderate or fresh NW wind.

Sea State: Mostly moderate with a 2 metre N wind swell.

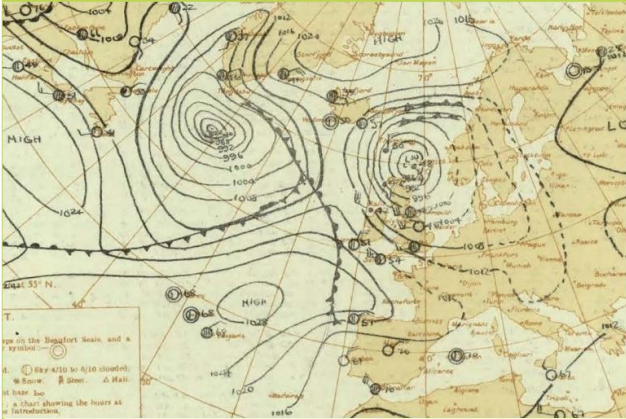
WEDNESDAY 12th – SUNDAY 16th: Showers on Wednesday with moderate NW winds. Then changeable with showers, perhaps some longer spells of rain later as mostly moderate winds freshen.

Sea State Wednesday: Slight to moderate with a 1 to 2 metre N wind swell.

Dave Wheeler

See next page for Weather map and information for D-Day 6th June 1944. A degree of similarity between then and now, especially across northern parts, though the Channel more favorable than it was on D-Day.

Weather chart for 1300 UTC on 6 June 1944



General summary

Most places dawned cloudy with continuing showers across northern and eastern districts. In southern Britain it was dry with a few breaks to allow some bright or sunny spells to develop across South West England.

During the day a rain band pushed slowly south but for Wales, central southern and South West England it remained dry with sunny intervals and patchy cloud, the best of the sunshine was across Devon and Cornwall and parts of South Wales.

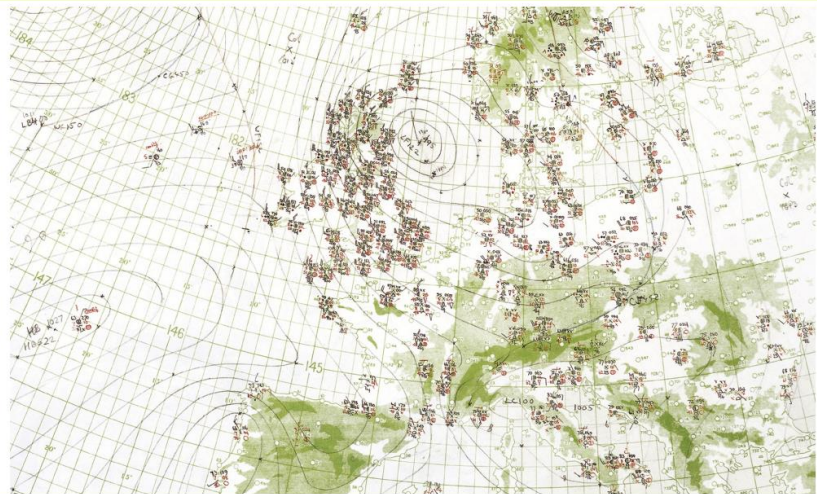
It was a windy and cool day everywhere with moderate to fresh north-westerly winds across the country, the wind only slowly moderating during the afternoon.

Significant weather event

Very unsettled weather in early June 1944 brought a series of weather fronts across the UK.

The allied invasion of Europe, originally planned for the 5th June, had to be postponed due to bad weather with a frontal system bringing strong winds and heavy cloud across southern England and the Channel Coasts.

A brief settled period was predicted for 6 June with a high pressure system moving in from the north west. In the event the conditions improved more slowly than expected. Winds were higher and cloud thicker than was ideal however accurate forecasting of the brief quieter weather period enabled the invasion to go ahead.



North Atlantic chart for 6 June 1944 showing observations from occupied Europe obtained through the cracking of the Enigma code.

Daily weather extremes

Highest Maximum Temperature
17.8 °C at Thorney Island (Hampshire)

Lowest Minimum Temperature
9.4 °C at Cape Wrath (Sutherland)

Most Rainfall
8.2 mm at Acklington (Northumberland)

Most Sunshine
11.3 hours at Plymouth (Devon)