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The Forest's Magic - Part 2

By Freyja Parnaby

In the pastel colours of dawn, they sneaked through the woods over the treetop bridges and into the fortress. This was the risky bit. There are always guards on patrol. Stardust could just show her identification. As for Rose, she wasn't so sure. She could say that she was a visiting friend, but she'd still have to get a scan. Then a plan started to form inside Stardust's head. Not only was she kind of royalty, she was also a warrior cadet so she could say Rose was a rogue pixie stealing from the village, being brought in for court.

After explaining the plan to Rose, they walked over to the guards. Stardust waved her identification at the guard and in vain, tried to march on.

"Halt! Who goes there?"

"Officer Crystal in training, sir... as it shows in my identification," faltered Stardust

"No, what are you doing with that prisoner?"

"Taking them to a holding cell before court sir," she answered with as much confidence as she could muster.

"I see, what is their crime?"

"Stealing from the stores, sir?"

Slowly the guard removed their helmet to show the face of... her cousin! "Hello, how are you? Very early in the morning for stealing, isn't it?"

"Ha ha, SOOO early! Why are you up this time? You should be in bed!" blithered Stardust.

"I got put on guard duty for lying in yesterday. Mum said it would teach me how to wake up in the mornings!" he sighed. "Anyway, you're not on shift for another three hours. Why are you bringing someone in now then?"

"Um, well funny story. We're all going to die if you don't let me past," Stardust shouted as she ran past for the second time.

This time she got past; however, the prince was following her.

"Stop! I'll let you past just tell me why you're running."

"No time...must get... the book!" panted Stardust.

At this, the prince leaped onto Stardust, tackling her to the ground. Rose who was by now quite far ahead noticed and started to charge towards the now handcuffed Stardust.

"LET HER GO YOU SLIMY TOAD FACED... TOAD!"

"When was the last time you insulted someone?" asked the prince, somewhat sarcastically.

“Rose, it’s ok! He’s my cousin, a really annoying one but still my cousin. Listen Castor, please let me go! It’s to do with the shield!”

“Only on two conditions, I come with you, and you tell me who this is.”

“Ok ok, she’s Rose the pixie and we’re friends. Now let’s go!”

By this time, it was daytime and very bright, which meant they had to be extra stealthy. Up the many, many steps they went, occasionally hiding in cupboards as more guards passed until at last they reached the top off the tower, the summit where the book of magic was kept. Rose darted forward and read. Stardust tried to read the many spells too but all she could see was gibberish. Then she realised it must be in Foret, the Pixie language. Then Rose paused, read a spell over several times and then with a burst of happiness shouted, “It’s here! You need a splash of river water, the hair of a pixie and an elf...um right where’s the last bit, here! You need a piece of magic?”

“Let’s get some from the shield,” Castor suggested.

“Great let’s go!”

Pausing only to grab the book they ran off, jumped out the window onto the rope bridge, so that they weren’t caught, and ran off to the river. Luckily, they had passed the shops on the way and ‘borrowed’ a lovely pot, which they then used to scoop up some river water. Rose and Stardust then snapped off a hair each and mixed it in. FOOMP! A sea-blue cloud of smoke and sparks sprang up. Something was definitely working. Sadly, afterwards though, that brilliant blue faded to clear river water. Stardust almost couldn’t bear to see as they hopped up the treetops and to the barely there shield. They tried grabbing some of shield but all that happened was they fell a few metres. Up they climbed again, though they were more hobbling now. But still, they persisted, jumping, singing, hopping around. They even tried just sitting but nothing worked. Then as Rose started to cry, losing all hope, Stardust gave her a hug and then the pot flew in the air with an almighty BANG! They all gave one big yelp as it fell, glowing and fizzing.

“The hug was a piece of magic!” Castor shouted excitedly.

“Quick, grab the book!”

Together in a ring, they chanted, sea-blue surrounding them but then CRACK! CRASH! THUD! It had failed! What had gone wrong?

“It says here that more powerful spells need everyone you can get!”

“I’ll go get the Elves then!”

“And I’ll go get the pixies!”

“Hang on, that won’t work, remember elves and pixies don’t...let’s say get along.”

“Well, we’ll have to make them,” decided Stardust.

Castor and Stardust set off for the throne room to make what they hoped would be an inspirational speech. Whilst Rose set off hopefully, to do the same. Castor and Stardust marched to the throne room, trying, whilst they went, not to get arrested.

Meanwhile Rose was arriving in the not so luxurious throne room. “Pixies! Please can I have your attention! I know for some time the Elves have outcast us for a crime we did not commit. However today we will have to put all our anger aside, this time the Elves need us! Friends, the shield is breaking, in a matter of minutes humans will be here, destroying our village, chopping down our trees, banishing us from our own homes, so today we need to unite!”

A wave of cheers and murmurs filled the tiny room. At the same time Stardust had made a similar speech to a similar outcome. All the elves and pixies they could gather joined together. Next they went to the river. There was some hugging and crying, but also some yelling and shouting. After all the greetings, they started to move towards the shield like a swarm of bees to a flower. Once they arrived, there were gasps all around the forest. When the leaders of the Elves and Pixies saw the shield, they forgot their quarrels.

“Pixies, Elves ... we need to unite! We may not have always got along but today if we do not get along the forest will be destroyed!” shouted the leader of the Elves, also known as Castor’s Mum. At this Stardust produced the spell book and started to chant, uniting everyone who joined hands and started to chant too. This time the blue returned so bright and so beautiful that you almost couldn’t look at it. Rather than the smash they heard last time, a wonderful noise filled the air. When they could finally look, the shield was mended and glowing with the fresh magic. A choir of cheers could be heard for miles around.

A month later, the elves and Pixies got along in unison but not without their problems. It was discovered that the Pixies had not stolen the crown and a traitor Elf had set them up! It took a few years but eventually everyone got along, and Stardust became queen with Rose in charge of the pixies.

The End



Fair Isle DR MPA Weekend 2024!

What an incredible three days in Fair Isle filled with marine activities and fun! Here’s a recap of our amazing weekend:

Friday: 🐳 Whales and Dolphins with the Fair Isle school: Katie Cubbon, our DR MPA project officer, and Emma Steel from Whale and Dolphin Conservation, spent the day with the Fair Isle school children. Emma taught us about different whale and dolphin species and their communication methods like echolocation and signature whistles.



🎧 We then tested FIMRO’s new hydrophone at North Haven, to see if we could hear any whale or dolphin sounds for ourselves. Although we didn’t hear any whales or dolphins it was great to test out this new piece of kit and hear the different sounds of the ocean!

👤 Invasive Non-Native Species Demo: Neil demonstrated how to check the settlement base plate on the pontoon which was fortunately clear of any invasive non-native species.

🔪 Marine Research Talks: An evening of insightful talks at the Fair Isle community hall featuring:

- Emma Steel on Shorewatch
- Alex Penn from Fair Isle Bird Observatory on seabird monitoring
- Karen Hall (virtually) on cetacean sightings around Shetland
- Tanya Riley (recorded) from UHI Shetland on the Fair Isle benthic habitat project

Saturday: 🌧️ Shorewatch taster session: Despite a wet and windy morning, hardy Shorewatchers (*above right*) received some basic training from Emma at South Lighthouse.

Intertidal surveys: Unfortunately, the afternoon activities were cancelled due to poor weather, but this was a good opportunity for Katie, Susannah, and the Fair Isle Bird Observatory team to try out some intertidal monitoring methods. A few species of nudibranchs were recorded including *Doto* sp.

Sunday: 🦀 Rockpooling: The weather turned in our favour! Over twenty-five enthusiastic rockpoolers took part. The most common finds were beadlet anemones, shore crabs, shrimp, water slaters, various algae species and more.

🍷 Then it was back to the hall for seaweed identification, pressing and homebakes.

A massive thank you to everyone who participated with such enthusiasm! We can't wait for the next Fair Isle DR MPA event. 🌊🌟



[#FairIsleDRMPA](#) [#marineconservation](#) [#marineresearch](#) [#rockpooling](#)

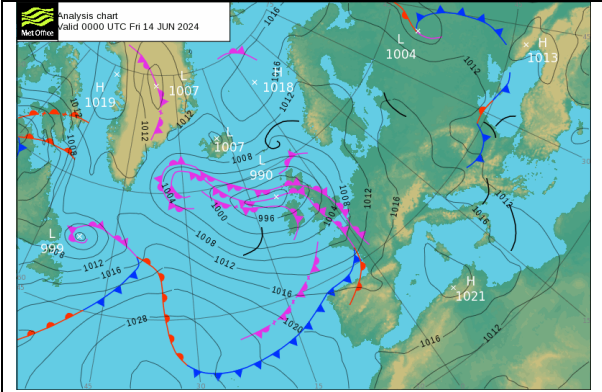
Thank you to our funders who supported the purchase of some of the survey equipment used over the weekend. This includes the hydrophone and Shorewatch survey equipment supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery through the National Trust for Scotland's Love our Nature project. Also, the Community Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Equipment Fund for supporting the intertidal species and habitat monitoring equipment.

Chapel – after a break for various cruise ships, the Sunday service will be back in the Chapel this week. All very welcome to join at 11am, John will be leading.

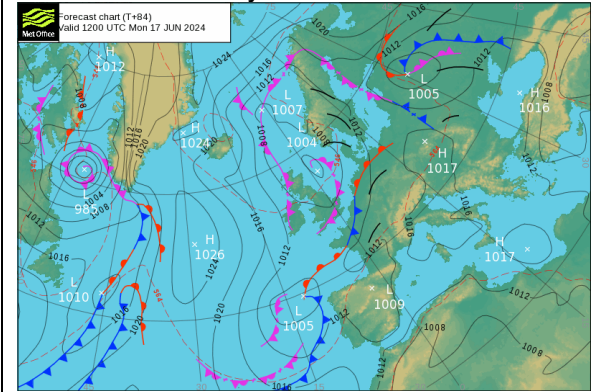
As the summer holiday approaches (*I'm trying not to laugh as I say that with the wind and rain lashing the window!*) we only have 2 editions of the Fair Isle Times left before the break so please do send any notices, items or good photos to Eileen or Hollie ASAP. Final edition before the break will be Friday 28th June. Thanks,
Eileen

Cruise ships – only one scheduled this coming week, Hebridean Princess due in Tuesday afternoon. Eileen

FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



**Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
Friday 14th June 2024**



**Forecast Chart 1200 UTC
Monday 17th June 2024**

GENERAL SITUATION

Friday 14th June 2024

An east southeast airflow will strengthen today as a depression west of the Hebrides drives an occluded front northeast over Scotland. The airflow slackens during the weekend as the filling low drifts east over northern Scotland, backing the airflow to a lighter north-easterly cyclonic variable by Sunday as the remnants of the low encompass the Northern Isles. Early next week should see low pressure moving away into Scandinavia, bringing a return to a cool northerly airflow. This ease through Tuesday as pressure builds to the west, an overnight ridge declines with Atlantic fronts following east later Wednesday. Low pressure near Iceland is likely bring changeable unsettled conditions for the remainder of the week though at least milder with a mainly south-westerly airflow.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND Milder with temperatures 11° or 12° during the day and 9° or 10° overnight.

FRIDAY 14th: Cloudy with rain, rather persistent and sometimes heavy accompanied by a F6 E wind. Low cloud and mist late morning with likelihood of fog by the afternoon, Windy and misty overnight with further rain. **Sea State:** Moderate with a 2 metre E wind swell.

SATURDAY 15th: Cloudy with outbreaks of rain, occasionally heavy at first, with low cloud mist or fog. Perhaps a drier afternoon with rain again later. F5-6 E wind backing NE. **Sea State:** Moderate with a 2 metre E wind swell.

SUNDAY 16th: A cloudy start with showers or longer spells of rain, perhaps drier and brighter later with chance of sunny spells. F3-4 NE winds. **Sea State:** Mostly slight to moderate with a 1 to 2 metre NE wind swell.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK Initially cool with temperatures 11° Celsius by day, 8° or 9° overnight. Near-average temperatures from mid-week. **MONDAY 17th:** Sunny spells and scattered showers. A cool moderate N breeze. **Sea State:** Slight or moderate with a 1 to 2 metre NE wind swell. **TUESDAY 18th:** Rather cloudy though mainly dry with a moderate or fresh N wind easing and falling light overnight. **Sea State:** Mostly slight with a 1 metre wind swell, NE east of Shetland and NW in W. **WEDNESDAY 19th – SUNDAY 23rd:** A fine start on Wednesday, then thickening cloud with rain from the west later. A milder fresh SW breeze. Rain clears to showers overnight the remainder of the week changeable with showers or longer spells of rain and fresh occasionally strong SW winds. **Sea State Wednesday:** Slight with a 1 metre NW wind swell later SW.

Dave Wheeler

