

# FAIR IS THE TIMES

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## Friday Night

On Friday Luca and Ander came to my house for a play date after school. First me, Luca and Ander played Minecraft but if we die three times we lose but we give Ander two more lives. After that, Luca and I played Minecraft dungeons then we all had dinner. We had sausages and chips then Eileen brought sweets over. Later on Ander, Heidi and I made a disco upstairs. We had disco lights on and loud music on Alexa. We charged the adults money to come in then they had a dance.

Harris (9)

## Busy Weekend!

On Friday Ander and I went to Harris and Heidi's house for a playdate. It was really fun. We played Minecraft and then we played Minecraft Dungeons. The kids all had dinner first. We had sausages and chips. Then my parents and Hollie came over for dinner too. Then we watched Scotland get hammered by Germany 5-1! One of the Scotland players was sent off and gave away a penalty at the same time! Scotland were a bit rubbish. We didn't get a shot on target and our goal was an own goal by Germany. On Sunday, mum, Ander and I cut millions of thistles and my dad finished the climbing frame. On Monday all the children came over to play on it after school.

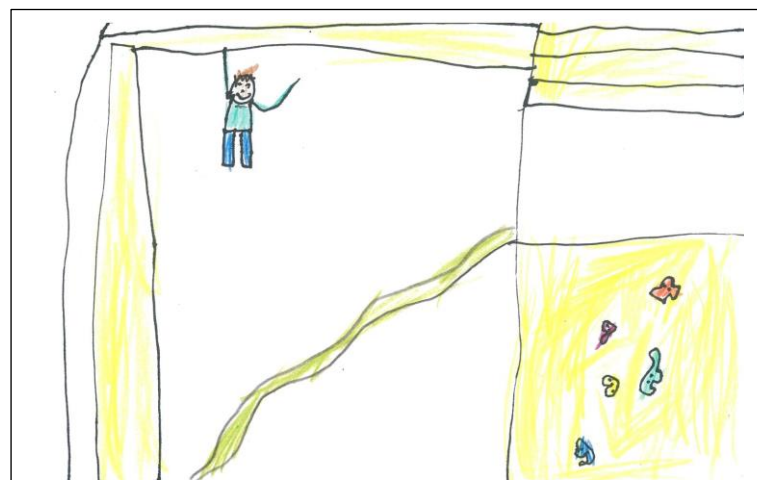
Luca (9)



18.6.24

I got a new bird in Feather Family. The bird is called Phoenix and it is red and yellow. Feather Family is a game in Roblox.

Heidi (6)



18.6.24

Yesterday my friends came to my house to play on my new climbing frame. It has a slide, a climbing wall, a climbing net and monkey bars. I had lots of fun.

Ander (6)

## First Day at High School!

This week was my first transition trip to the Anderson High School. It was great! I also got stuck out over the weekend, which meant I could go to Pride to have a look around.

On Thursday afternoon after school, I went on the plane for the night at the hostel. It was fish and chips for tea. Then I got showed to my room, which is next to Grace's room as well as Elma's room on the other side (Elma is the only P7 in Foula, I've met her on school trips before). That evening was very fun as I met Grace as well. Friday was my transition day at the Anderson. Unfortunately, Grace was at college therefore, she wasn't in the school that day but I did get to walk down with Elma and Sam. When we arrived, we had a bit of a chat then we went to science. It was very cool as we learnt how to use Bunsen burners. The flame went quite high, then we turned the tube so that there was a purply-blue flame as the oxygen increased. Later we had social subjects. We had a quiz of some flags and then we walked around the room asking people different questions about foreign things (e.g. if they could say hello in another language, were wearing clothes made in a different country or if any of their relatives lived in different countries), then writing their name and answer, it was very interesting. Afterwards it was break and we got to sit in the learning support room which has hot chocolate, a Wii, games and table football! Next it was maths and there was a really cool formula that I can't remember but the number at the end was always four! Later it was lunch which was pizza and chips! During break we played Five Minute Marvel, which is a card game where you have to defeat the baddies using your superhero power cards. It was lots of fun and we beat the game once. After lunch it was time for art. The teacher taught us how to make pinch pots with clay. They were very fun to make and the clay was lovely and soft. Once we had made the pots we got to decorate them, I also decorated the teacher's pot with all the different clay tools as I was done early. Later we cleared up and went to do an evaluation on how our day was. I thought it was great!

Freyja (12)

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**Midsummer greetings to you all!** As I took the bairns to school this morning I breathed in the lovely summer-scented air – makes a difference when the breeze is coming from the south rather than the chill from the arctic which we have been 'enjoying' the past 3 weeks.

May was such a boannie month, but June has been hopeless as Dave will confirm below. Shorts and sandals have been relegated to the wardrobe once more. We should have been experiencing the busiest part of the year for cruise ships; the first week in June having ships every day, but only the very adventurous *Greg Mortimer*, a real expedition ship named after a real adventurer (Greg Mortimer actually visited the isle on his eponymous ship a couple of years ago) made it in to the isle. I think all the isle folk were impressed by the captain and his crew landing over 100 passengers at the South Haven in fairly interesting swell. It is always fun chatting with the visitors when they come to the Hall for tea and cake. Note the interest in 'tea' from most passengers – while these ships are incredibly luxurious with top quality restaurant standard food, the tea is usually pretty poor and a good cuppa is always appreciated by guests. It really is a small world - we met a lovely gentleman who served in the Falklands in the same era as Hollie's father Alistair, and us Houll eens received a parcel of goodies from my sister in law in Ushuaia – the ship spends our winter down in the real south, taking visitors from Ushuaia to Antarctica and one crew member is a friend of Sofia's who took us some presents all the way from Patagonia. We sent a return parcel back, hopefully it'll get there in a few months' time. Guillermo thinks we should maybe hop on too – would certainly be a fun way to make our way there!

Back to last week, we were hoping to have a visit from Jenny Stout, our lovely isle friend and cousin, now a famous writer to many folk, but she's always a frisle (*from Fair Isle*) lass to us. Jenny has been very busy

publicising her new book 'Night train to Odesa' which has had incredible coverage and reviews, even being the Book of the Week on Radio 4 which is no mean feat for a first book. Jenny's mum was a great writer too and while we remember lovely Cathy this week we know how delighted and proud she would have been. Alas, poor weather (the theme for June) means Jenny doesn't make it in, but we'll look forward to a visit in future.

We have a lovely Friday evening with friends, great food and a terrible football match. You can't have everything...

We would usually have been enjoying barbecues and catching up with folk more this time of year but with the rain it seemed nice to organise a bit of a social to lift the spirits. A good gang of folk came to the Hall for some games and good company, a mix of isle folk and visitors and I think a fine time was had by all. I even managed to finish a couple of games of darts and threw a 100 which I think is a record for me! Marie brought an interesting board game called *Azul* which Guillermo and Fiona definitely got the hang of more quickly than Charlotte and me. Always good to see Charlotte from Upper Leogh back home again too – come back soon and for longer next time please!!

The bairns had a sleepover at Stoneybrek on Saturday evening so we had a lie in, which means 8.30am for me. Now I'm in my forties I definitely need earlier nights and earlier mornings. I get up, make tea and enjoy peaceful finishing of a jumper for Marie, while watching an old Inspector Morse – bliss. On second thoughts, maybe I'm 70 not 40.

The sun comes out on Sunday morning and I spend the afternoon with the boys pulling up thistles around Houll, quite a job but the boys are very keen and we get a huge piece of ground cleared which is very satisfying and worth the spaegie tomorrow. Meanwhile, Guillermo finishes building the new climbing frame we bought the boys. It is a brilliant kit and Guillermo has done well building it single handed and has Isle-proofed it with plenty of concrete fixing down the main posts. I go for a run at tea time and enjoy no wind and some sun on my face. I'm a fair weather jogger, so haven't been much recently. Ander lost his 3<sup>rd</sup> tooth today so an excited peerie boy puts the tooth under his pillow and sadly wishes it good bye. He was very happy to see the pound the tooth fairy had left for him though.

Poor weather delayed the Shepherd this week and cancelled another visit from the Hebridean Princess (famously flaky at landing here). As I write though, they are planning on visiting tomorrow morning which looks to be a fine day so fingers crossed for their passengers who really do want to visit us it seems. Freyja gets home after an extended first visit to the High School. I was so pleased to see how keen she was to go and even more so, how happy she was to get stuck away. Freyja is a real star and we will miss her here so much, but she is ready and needing to get to the big school. Such a friendly, fun and smart lass, we all know she will be absolutely fine, but the isle will certainly be quieter without her.

Talking of Freyja, she joined the rest of the school bairns coming to test the new climbing frame after school, and even the rain couldn't tempt the bairns inside!



The Euros is on and we are all football fans at Houll. I bought the boys the official sticker book on a recent trip to Lerwick and they are now awaiting delivery of some more stickers (payment for chores) to fill the pages. We look out for Uncle Ross in the crowd at the excellent Georgia v Turkey game. Ross had complained that they were only going to “*some miserable match*” but I think it was one of the best games so far. England haven’t been too exciting so far, hopefully still warming up. Luca correctly predicted Scotland’s 5-1 drubbing by the Germans, thankfully they were much better against Switzerland. We were thinking of our latest addition to the Thomson flock, peerie Leni in Basel, wondering where her loyalties would lie. A draw will hopefully have pleased her!

A quiet week with no cruise ships means I get caught up on plenty of less-interesting admin tasks, never my most enjoyed job, but essential and feels good to get on with it! A few more emails off to try to help our mission to fill Brecks with new boat crew and family, a few of us are working quite a lot behind the scenes, fingers crossed for a good outcome soon. Our sun porch is really good this year, I give it a big tidy up so it’s nice to sit in there and enjoy seeing the watermelons grow without the risk of standing on Lego! Cucumbers and basil are doing especially well and I need to be become quicker off the mark eating tomatoes as Luca seems to beat me to the ripe ones. A few more runs this week feel good too – after not being particularly well the past few months it feels extra nice to be out running in preparation for chasing sheep through the hill, which will be here before we know it.

School pick up on Thursday afternoon turns into an adventure in the Hill as Harris joins us, initially just to check the creels, but we end up going to Wirvie for me to hunt for Chickweed Wintergreen, a beautiful peerie flower which only lives in one small area here. The boys have a whale of a time hunting for (and finding) ever so many ant’s nests in the peerie quarry at Wirvie. Harris was very excited to see so many ants! We then went to the Golden Water to find peerie frogs, tiny but we managed to find a few - just perfect. Then a quick trip to the North Light to see nories, back to the pier for a few crabs and home for much-needed hot chocolate



Hollie joins us for dinner, definitely twitchy anytime the phone beeps in case it is news of her now overdue first grandchild. We can’t wait for this little one to arrive and I wonder if grandad Deryk has bought a tiny Celtic strip yet? We are missing Deryk at the moment, who is having a once in a lifetime adventure to Germany to join in the Euros party with the boys. After tea, our boys are very keen for Hollie, who is also PE instructor at the school, to try out the monkey bars and she is very good! My new challenge is to practice every day to see if I can regain my former ability to complete the monkey bars. Might take some work...

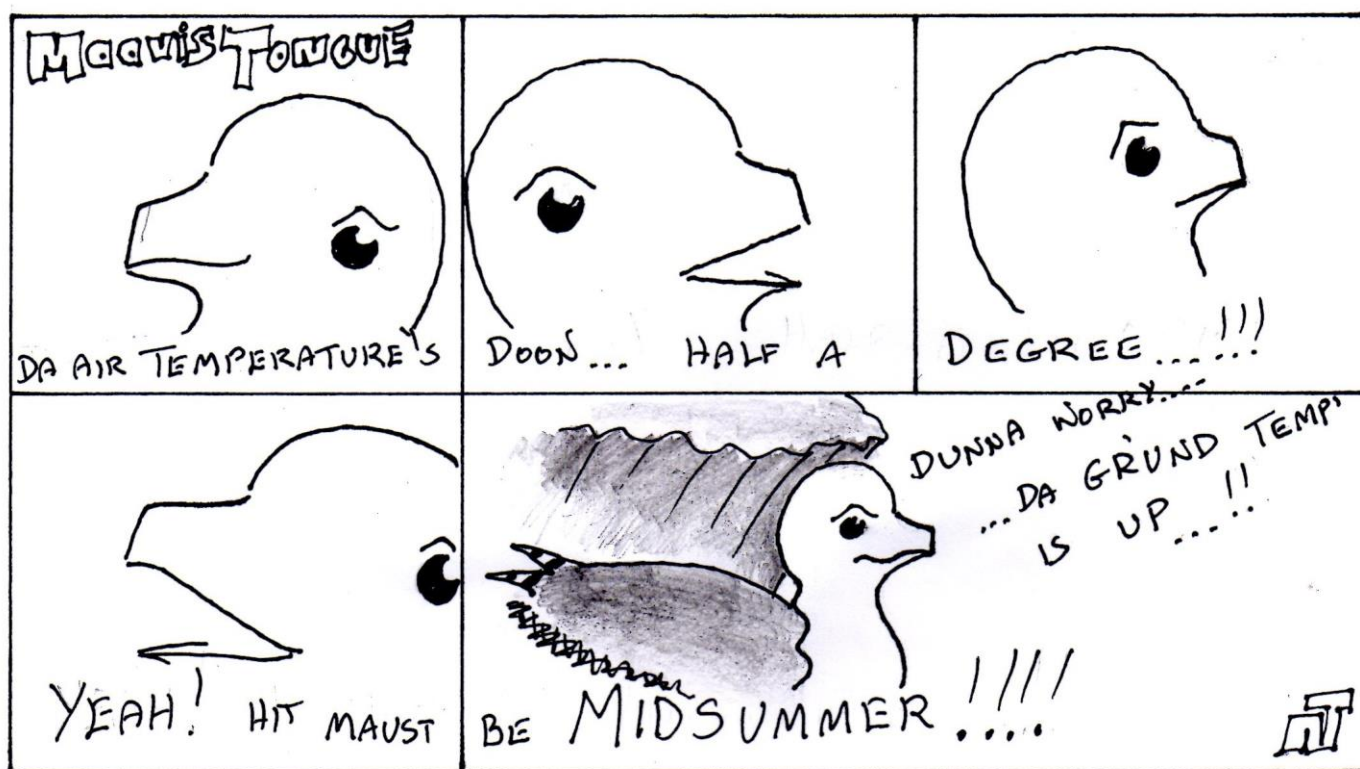
So back to Friday, we have a busy week ahead with various ships due, with our largest ever, *Maud* arriving next Sunday with 400 passengers. That’ll be a good fun! The good forecast encouraged a few of us to plan a midsummer bonfire and party tomorrow evening, Guillermo and Andy are in charge of the mammoth bonfire which has been gathering at the Haven in recent months. Let’s hope we burn away the cloud and cold and it proves a turning point in our summer – we could do with the sun and warmth back!

Have a fine weekend, all of you.

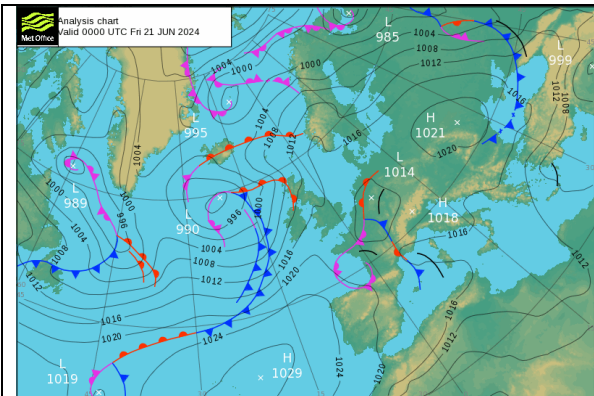
Eileen at Houll

## ISLE NOTICES

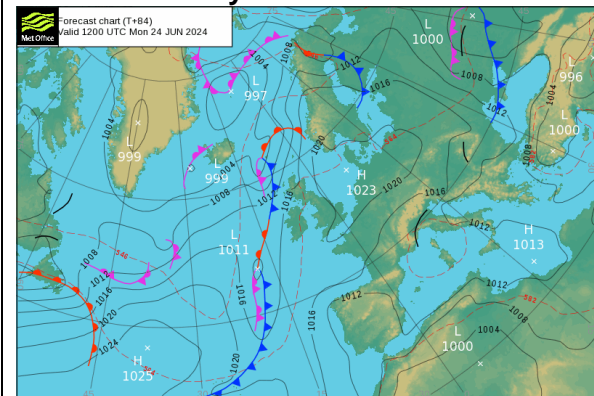
- **Midsummer bonfire and beach party** – Saturday night from 7.30pm, all welcome! Bring a bottle and some food, Guillermo will be at the charcoals!
- **Sunday service** – all welcome to join in the Chapel on Sunday at 11am, Dave B leading and there will be Sunday School for Freyja's last session
- **Fire extinguisher checks** – Malakoff will be coming in on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July to check fire extinguishers from NTS properties, if you have one please take to the Hall for the morning of 3<sup>rd</sup> and collect again after the PM plane
- **Cruise ships.** We have 4 ships scheduled to visit the next week:
  1. Hebridean Princess (40 passengers) – Saturday morning, Hall and Museum open 10.30-12.00
  2. Island Sky (111 passengers) Monday afternoon, Hall and Museum open 15.00-17.00
  3. Island Sky (108 passengers) Friday morning, Hall and Museum open 10.00-12.00
  4. Maud (400 passengers!!!) Sunday all day, Hall and Museum open 11.00-16.00
- **Fair Isle Times** next weekend will be our final edition before the summer break, please do send any notices or fun things to share to Eileen before Thursday



## FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



**Analysis Chart 0000 UTC  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024**



**Forecast Chart 1200 UTC  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

### GENERAL SITUATION

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024**

With pressure low south of Iceland and high across Central Europe an occasionally fresh south to south-westerly airflow covers northern Scotland. A weak warm front will cross Shetland today, a cold front on Saturday and a weak occlusion on Sunday. While current forecast models agree pressure will be building across the British Isles, they also indicate the far northwest and north of the UK may well remain under the influence of low pressure in the Iceland area and from midweek possibly a small depression developing close to northwest Scotland.

### OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Temperatures 13° or 14° during the day, 9° or 10° overnight.

**FRIDAY 21<sup>st</sup>:** Cloudy with patch rain, perhaps heavier late morning, clearing to a drier, brighter afternoon. F4-5 S winds easing F4. Cloudy overnight with chance of showers later. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate with a 1 to 2 metre SW to S wind swell.

**SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Some early showery rain then a mainly dry cloudy morning. The afternoon dry and brighter with sunny spells but then cloudier with chance of rain late evening. F4 WSW winds. Cloudy overnight with some rain. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate with a 1 to 2 metre SW

to S wind swell.

**SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Perhaps some early patchy mist and drizzle then drier and brighter with sunny spells. F4 WSW winds. Clear spells at first overnight, chance of showers later. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate with a 2 metre SW to S wind swell.

**FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK** Temperatures 13° or 14° Celsius by day, 10° overnight.

**MONDAY 24<sup>th</sup>:** Cloudy with early showers dying out though staying cloudy. Fresh SW winds easing moderate. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate with a 2 metre SW to S wind swell.

**TUESDAY 25<sup>th</sup>:** A mainly dry cloudy day. Moderate SW winds backing S to SSE with chance of showers overnight. **Sea State:** Mostly slight with a 1 metre SW to W wind swell.

**WEDNESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> – SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup>:** Wednesday starting cloudy with mist and drizzle, perhaps hill and coastal fog. Drier and brighter later. The rest of the week possibly rather cloudy with showers or longer spells of mostly light rain and moderate S to SE winds, occasionally fresh.

**Sea State Wednesday:** Mostly slight with a 1 metre S wind swell.

**We are needing plenty of sunshine between now and end of the month. Current sunshine total is a miserable 67.5 hours. At the moment June 2024 is the duller Fair Isle June since records began in 1976! The actual lowest so far is June 2017 with 89.8hrs.**

**Our average for June is 168.9hrs. As we are very unlikely to average 10 hours a day for the next ten days (required to reach “average”) it’s almost certain that this June will be dull!!**

**Additionally, rainfall total June 2024 currently stands at 43.4mm. June average for Fair Isle 1974-2000 is 46.8mm. As we are likely to see more rain before the end of the month then this month is likely to be exceed June average.**

**Average temperature for June 2024 is 9.6°C, just 0.1°C below the 1974-2000 average of 9.7°C.**

**Up until the start of June Fair Isle has seen above average temperatures (May 2024 our warmest May ever!) and the current amount of “stored” (“accumulate”) is presently equivalent to that which we normally reach by mid-July**

**Dave Wheeler**

