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This week from Fair Isle Primary School...

### **Naughty Thistle's Adventure**

Once upon a time in a tank in the Schoolhouse, on the middle of Fair Isle, was a snake called Thistle (and it is not green!). Thistle is scaly, orange, red and white with a forked tongue. She was a great pet because she only got fed once a fortnight and pooped once a fortnight too. Her owner, Harris, was a happy, funny 10 year old boy.

One Saturday morning Harris hopped out of bed and dashed over to the tank and took Thistle out for a cuddle. Suddenly his iPad started ringing so he sprinted down the stairs and answered it. Unfortunately he forgot to lock the tank!

Later that morning Thistle slithered silently down the stairs. The kittens were out and Thistle opened the kitchen door. HISS! MEOW! Tammy attacked the kittens who scrambled up the porch door and miraculously opened it! Soon after, Thistle escaped into the garden. Harris did not have a clue because he had his headset on.

Later on, Thistle saw a rabbit and bit its leg and the rabbit took off like a bullet right down to the shop. The rabbit stopped with so much force he smashed a window and Thistle was flung behind the freezer! Bang! Wallop! Fiona came through "WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED THERE?!" she shouted. She tidied up the mess then went back to the sitting room.

After a few hours, when Thistle was brave enough to be adventurous, she slithered out from behind the freezer and slipped in the cold meat fridge. Frantically she gobbled up a whole packet of Danish salami and fell asleep.

The next day Robert opened the shop and the first customer was Gillian. When she opened the fridge she almost jumped out of her skin! Gillian took Thistle home and locked the tank!

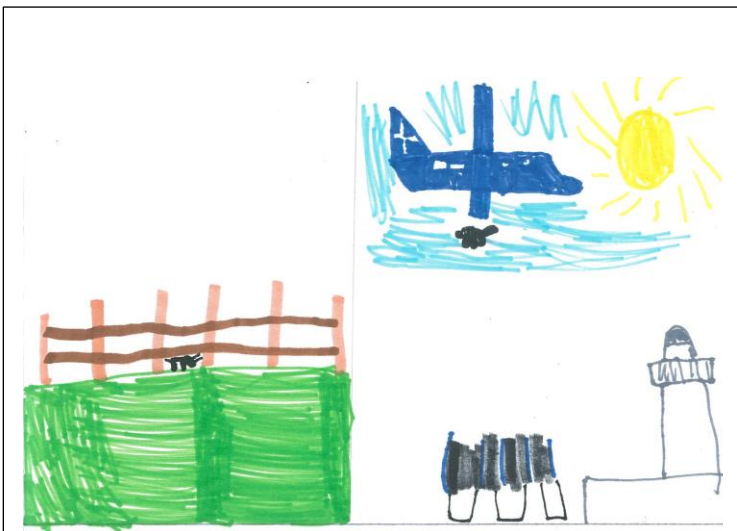
Luca (9)

### **FORTNITE FNCS (*Fortnite Championship Series*)**

I was in a FNCS match with PWR Alex and we had 90 points. My Fortnite name was Ashm Demon and my skin is the kuno skin but it's the fire version. It has orange hair, a black mask, a black jacket with a little bit of orange. First we spawned on Spawn Island, then we hopped on the battle bus. Then we jumped off the battle bus and we went to Restored Reels. There was another duo that were landing there too. Alex eliminated one and I eliminated the other. Then we rotated to Zone, but then another duo was there. But they were TG aka Typical Gamer and Loser Fruit and we fought them and we won the battle! Next we saw people in the storm so we were going to go into the storm but then we saw we had no medikit. The reason we didn't go in was that the storm does damage so we just left them alone. But then they came out of the storm so we got them too!

We looked at how many people were left and there were four people left. That means it's a 2 versus 2. They were Milo my cousin and Rift. It was hard but we eliminated them and won the game.

Harris (10)



One sunny morning Pat and Neil went on holiday. Pat left the door open. Don ran out of the door! Don chased the car! The car got away. Don ran up to the North Light. Don found a trampoline. Don heard the plane so he jumped

on the trampoline so high that he joined Pat and Neil on the plane. Later that morning the plane landed. Don jumped out. They all went on holiday.

Ander (6)



The cat/corns are giving the cloud magic. It was a sunny day. The clouds are pink. They live very high in the sky.



The magic is golden. The cat/corns went away.

Heidi (6)

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#### Fair Isle Demonstration and Research MPA update:

- The Moder Dy research vessel from UHI Shetland has been surveying the seabed around Fair Isle this week. They have been using methods including drop-down video, and side-scan sonar to gain more information on the habitats and species which exist around the isle. They have been targeting areas of interest for shag foraging (determined by the shag tagging project earlier in the year), as well as areas of importance for flapper skate identified from the inshore fish surveys carried out to date. Surveys are also informed by modelling used to predict what species and habitats *may* exist around the isle based on existing environmental data. From the information gained during this week's physical surveys, scientists from UHI Shetland will be able to create detailed maps of the habitats and species around the isle. We hope to be able to share some of what they've discovered very soon.
- The Fair Isle DR MPA summer newsletter, with a round-up of DR MPA news and summer research activity is now available on FIMRO's website: <https://www.fair-isle-marine.org.uk/fair-isle-dr-mpa/dr-mpa-newsletter/> you can also access previous newsletters here and subscribe to receive regular newsletters
- The National Trust for Scotland have published an article celebrating recent Fair Isle DR MPA research (funded by the National Trust through players of the People's Postcode Lottery), to coincide with the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fair Isle coming under the Trust's care. This article is available on the Trust's website in the news section.

As mentioned in Katie's MPA update above, this week marked 70 years since the National Trust for Scotland became owners of Fair Isle.

You can read more on NTS' support for the work of FIMRO [here](#) and an article from The Scotsman [here](#)

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

Over a number of years, I seem to remember that 'Da week dats awa' has begun with the suggestion that Eileen has bullied or coaxed the individual into writing. These words were never nasty but rather an excuse for their writing. Her approach this week was different. I was hosing down the concrete in the sheep pen when a voice called from the west side, making me jump, and the pressurised water from the hose went all down my front. Her smile was charming!

I felt that this week seemed a bit routine, but then I realised memories had been provoked. No planes as even when an aircraft was brought back north to operate the flights, the fog descended. In our first years here, we had to charter the aircraft. Our young ones, coming and going at the beginning and end of term, had a choice: travel home on the boat and return via Sumburgh on a plane, or the other way round, as costs were high. Betty and I often said that Fiona changed colour as we even suggested that she go on the Good Shepherd. Travelling up from the airport on the bus was not that easy as there was no main road in those days, so the bus visited all the small villages en route to Lerwick. A certain headmaster at the old Anderson High often commented that they were late arriving!

There was a very quiet anniversary this week. The 3rd September 1954, when the National Trust for Scotland bought Fair Isle, which is described as *famous for its bird life and knitted sweaters*. It is fascinating that while George Waterson and his ornithologist friend Ian Pitman were held captive in a German prisoner of war camp, they believed that the day would come when they would be free and establish a Bird Sanctuary on Fair Isle.

Speaking this week with an old girlfriend about 1954, she reminded me that that was the year I joined the Regular Army.

I am remembering (and being amazed) by Annie from Shirva identifying by name, the individuals who had hand-knitted Fair Isle jumpers found in the Antarctic. Would she also have known who made the jumper Prince Charles wore when playing golf?

The Methodist Church in Shetland is having meetings to put forward a plan for how to operate in the next ten years or so. These gatherings are not restricted to Church members as it is firmly believed the whole of a local community can sometimes contribute different ideas. The national Methodist organising committee have, in their wisdom, only allocated one minister for the whole of Shetland (I appreciate that I am a quiet anomaly). The team hoped that a visit to the Isle could have been made, but weather, accommodation and lack of planes blocked that idea. I am pleased that Susannah will attempt to go over to Shetland to represent us and is more than capable of helping with ideas beyond Lerwick.

I am known to have collected a few pieces of paper. Reading again in the last few days, I came across an article written by Betty, Cathy Stout and me in 2006. Here was our contribution to the Wesley Historical Society. Part of the report was of John Lewis making the first Methodist visit in 1822. The crossing took seven and a half hours.

Think about it: there are no sheep sales like we are managing this week, and how Annie and Stewart went across to Lerwick on a military boat to be married during the war (*Editor: 7<sup>th</sup> March 1944*).

Looking at my core sample of rock, which sits on my windowsill, from the Haven breakwater erection days, I had daft thoughts that the digging up on Bunes was the advance party for the new pier. The diggers were, in fact, two visiting archaeologists.

The boat has been busy this week transporting lambs across to Grutness on their way to the Marts. These are poignant thoughts for me as this is my last shipment as a crofter. Fiona and Robert were down at Utra by 6 o'clock to help Ian with the lamb loading.

The Community Pop-In was good. It was great to see the children enjoying games. Ana was back again, getting us to explore a new way of picture printing. Peter from Citizens Advice was helpful, especially as I needed Fiona to assist me with my hearing difficulties. Yvonne was new to me, an absolute pleasure to meet, and there was a bonus as she knew my grand-daughter Kaylee-Ann. I should also mention the lovely table of food - artistic and enticing.

On the home front, Robert has been down rebuilding stone walls and, on wet days, fitting new LED lights, and electric sockets. Fiona said she was coming along to paint - was this to be in wax or acrylic? No, she was down to paint the ceiling and walls in the utility room. My thought for the week is: What can I get them to do next week?

Looking again at the old slates stacked at Lower Leogh, I am reflecting on the Labour Government announcement that times-tables are no longer to be taught in school. In my first year at primary school, we wrote on slates. Years later, arriving in Fair Isle with no mobiles, Betty left messages of visits she was making on a slate in the porch (a different era for data protection).

While the bird teams are busy, I was reflecting in ignorance upon the phrase used in a detective story I was reading '*as the crow flies*'. Do the crows fly a long distance, in a straight line or what?

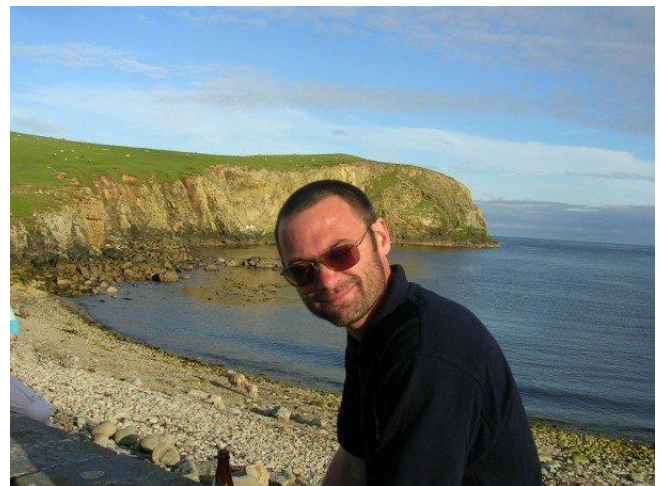
Jonnie has been kind enough to collate a list of all the countries written in the Chapel visitor's book for the last couple of years. We live on a remote island, but our outreach is quite incredible.

I am off to the shop now.

John

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**The whole community of Fair Isle was shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of our friend and former islander and ferry crew member, Darren Wiseman, this week. Darren came to live at Burkle and then Barkland with wife Angela and their bairns: Maree, Mark, Amber and Robyn. A kind, cheery, hard-working and helpful man, he is remembered very fondly by many here and we all send our love to Angela and the bairns and grandbairns.**



### ISLE NOTICES

**Fair Isle Committee quarterly meeting - 11<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm.** The next island meeting is this Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Sept at 7.30pm in the Committee Room. Tea, coffee & homebakes back due to popular demand.

**Chapel** – All welcome to join in fellowship at the Chapel this Sunday from 11am. Susannah will be leading the service.

**Nurse** – A reminder that Laura is away on holiday but a nurse is due to visit the isle on Monday



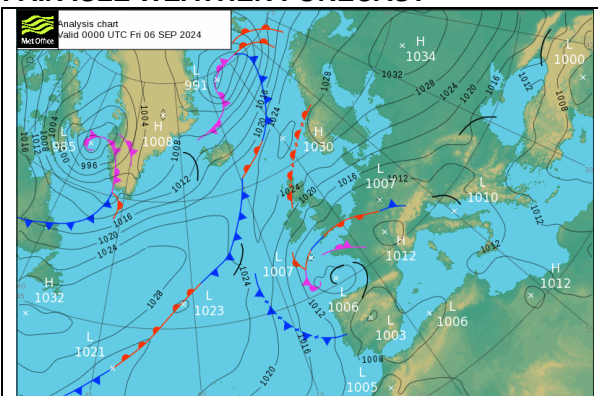
**This nightjar was caught catching up on sleep in Vaila's Trees on Thursday. Maybe it was up early catching lambs to go to market too! Thanks to Luke Marriner for the photo.**



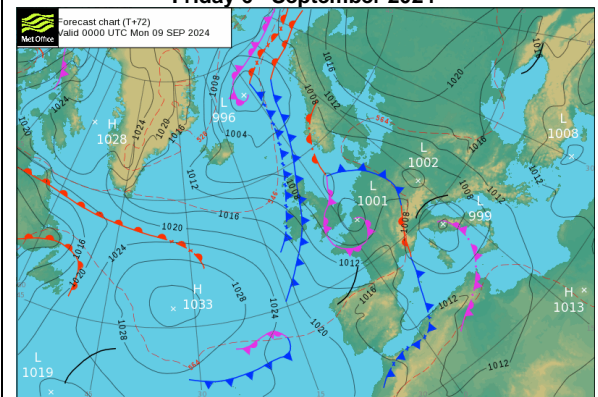
**Friday started very foggy in the Isle, but the sun has been breaking through since morning, here is the view of Klaver and the fog rolling over Vaasetter from Field this morning (thanks to Dave Wheeler) and of Sumburgh Head as the Shepherd leaves Grutness to return home (thanks to Ian Best)**



## FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0000 UTC  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024



Forecast Chart 0000 UTC  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024

patches. Light F2-3 SE later SSW winds. **Sea State:** Slight to moderate with a 1 to 2 metre W wind swell, S east of Shetland.

**FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK** Temperatures 11° or 12° during the day, around 9° overnight. **MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup>:** A brighter day before clouding over with showery rain arriving overnight. Cooler with moderate occasionally fresh WNW winds. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate with a 2 metre W wind swell. **TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup>:** Scattered showers, sunny spells between. Moderate or fresh SW winds tending fresh W and later strong NW. **Sea State:** Moderate to rough with a 2 to 3 metre WNW wind swell. **WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> – SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup>:** Wednesday bright with sunny spells. blustery showers and strong gusty NNW or N winds. Strong winds ease and back NW through Thursday. A fine day Friday with light winds. The weekend brings rain and strong SE winds. **Sea State Wednesday:** Rough to very rough with a 4 to 5 metre NNW wind swell.

**Dave Wheeler**

## GENERAL SITUATION

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

A ridge across the Northern Isles links an anticyclone over the northwest Atlantic to another high over northern Europe. A light east or north-easterly airflow feeds in moist warm air. During the weekend a developing low near Iceland is expected to slip southeast pushing a frontal system east towards Shetland later Monday. This latest low is forecast to be close to Shetland by Tuesday bringing a strong cyclonic north-westerly airflow later in the day. The low then drifts north, the strong northerly airflow slowly easing and backing north-westerly through Wednesday and Thursday. A ridge swings east across Scotland on Friday with a strong south-easterly airflow then developing ahead of an Atlantic frontal system arriving on Saturday.

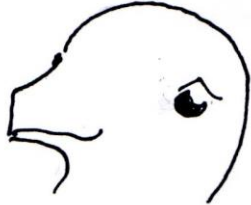
**OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND** Daytime temperatures if foggy 13° or 14°, otherwise perhaps 16° in any sunshine. Around 11° overnight. (*Temperature 15.6° at 0905UTC. Feels warmer as relative humidity 99%*).

**FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup>:** A dull day with low cloud and haar. As F3-4 ENE winds veer ESE sunshine may develop, though sea fog never far away and will return by evening. Foggy overnight. **Sea State:** Mostly slight with a 1 metre WNW wind swell.

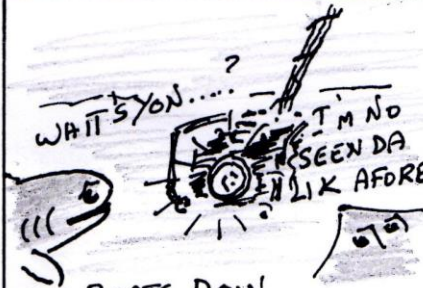
**SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup>:** A cloudy day, apart from some light drizzle mainly dry but with rather persistent fog. Light F2-3 SE winds. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate with a 2 metre W wind swell.

**SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup>:** A cloudy foggy or misty day with a few light drizzle

# MARVIN'S TONGUE



HT'S SO EXCITIN... BIDIN HERE...



WATTSYON... ?  
I'M NO SEEN DA  
LIK AFORE

WI BOATS DOIN  
BENTHIC SURVAYS...



How Long...?

YELP!

A BOOT HALFWY

LAMB TRIPS... AN WHITNO...



SOME EENS COME FÆ  
NEAR AN FAR.....  
... AN SOME EENS ARE...



SLEEPIN... !!!