

FAIR ISLE TIMES

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School Trip September 2024

Monday

Upon arrival, we had a quick lunch at the hostel flat then headed to Clickimin pool for our first swimming lesson. Afterwards (following a well-earned snack of course), we walked to Bolts to collect the minibus then had a fun time playing at Hayfield Park before nipping to Tesco to stock up on more snacks and goodies for the week ahead.



It was so lovely to sit with Freyja and Grace at dinnertime and catch up. As this was our only decent day of weather, we decided to visit Meal Beach in the early evening for some fresh air and fun. It didn't take long for socks and shoes to come off for a chilly paddle in the sea! Back at the flat, we ate a healthy supper of fruit before bed.



Tuesday

As forecasted, the weather was horrendous but luckily all activities today were indoors! The rain was so heavy we even used the mini-bus to get to the pool (just around the corner) for our lesson! Our next stop was UHI for some STEM activities. We explored the senses box - everyone loved the upside-down glasses! We did some coding with Botley, the programmable toy, and had a turn using the VR headset! We were also given a tour of the building to learn about different careers studied like nursing, teaching, construction, art, textile, hairdressing and cookery!



Our final activity for the day was a trip to the dentist! On our previous trip in May, we visited Montfield for Child Smile classes and for the dental nurses to apply fluoride varnish. This time, we had full examinations, and the dentist was delighted to report that everyone has healthy teeth, and they are all brushing thoroughly. Harris had a couple of x-rays in the practice then we went to Gilbert Bain for Luca to have a proper x-ray to check on a tooth yet to appear. Freyja joined us after dinner for a trip to Magnos for ice-cream (some of us were defeated by two scoops as they were colossal). Back at the flat, we watched a movie.



Wednesday

We had a relaxing start to the day with a visit to the library - it was very peaceful! Afterwards, we visited Scalloway Museum. The children spent most of their time in the children's area, playing with the castle and Viking toys. Outside, Heidi met Heidi the Shetland pony!





After lunch we spent the afternoon at Hamnavoe Primary (Harris and Heidi's new school after October). Mrs Robertson, the head teacher, met us in the playground and showed us around and introduced us to the pupils. They have climbing frames, a tree garden, some hens and new swings. The children played until the end of lunchbreak then Heidi and Ander joined the P1/2 class, and Harris and Luca joined the P5/6 class. Afterwards, we went to Harry's toy shop to spend our pocket money then in the evening, Freyja, Luca and Harris went to the pool for 'free' swim. Heidi and Ander watched a movie and relaxed at the flat.

Thursday

The children spent the morning at Hamnavoe Primary and joined the literacy and maths lessons followed by break. Then it was back to the flat for lunch before our final swimming lesson. As the flights were cancelled, we had a relaxing evening before heading home on Friday morning. It was a fantastic school trip all round with happy, tired children (and adults)! I am really going to miss school trips – it is one of my favourite things about this job!



This week we find out little bit more about Luke, one of the new AWs working for the Bird Observatory this year. You can recognize Luke by his ever-optimistic wearing of shorts, and listening to cricket while out and about...



Name: Luke Marriner

Age: 20

How long has Fair Isle been your home? Since the 20th of March

Who do you live with? The Obs boys dream team: Alex Penn and Jonnie Fisk

What is your earliest memory? My earliest memory was when I was about 4 years old. I fell out of my bunk bed while sleep walking and broke my collar bone. I woke up in an ambulance I thought, at the time, that it was quite cool!

When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up and why? I always wanted to be a professional cricket player because my Dad used to play and used to work for the ECB (England and Wales cricket board) or an ice cream man - who doesn't want an endless supply of ice cream?

What do you/did you do for a living? I am one of the FIBOT Assistant Wardens

If you didn't live in Fair Isle, what would you like to do for a living? I would love to be a warden of an island, maybe one of the Welsh islands

Do you have a personal hero? Not really, there are lots of people I think are very cool, for example Jimmy Anderson (cricketer) or Ollie Watkins (footballer), but no one I would describe as a hero. Also, Damon Albarn, what a legend!

What is your philosophy in life? Don't go chasing rare things, they will find you!

If you had a free, 'fantasy' 24 hours with no travel restrictions – where would you go and what would you do? I would go and visit the Great Barrier Reef before it 'dies' and marvel at all the cool reef species and fish. I would also love to go and see the Galapagos finches.

What is the most enjoyable thing you do? It must be catching and ringing migrating birds with the boys. Spending time in good company catching birds doing the most mind blowing things!

What is the hardest thing you do? Seeing sea birds struggling compared to previous years and not being able to do anything about it

What concerns you for the future? The recent changes in weather patterns becoming more and more extreme and unpredictable

Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time? Hopefully running a bird observatory on an island somewhere

What has occupied your time this week? This week has mainly consisted of counting migratory birds, and going to see the rare birds which Rob Hughes and Nina O'Hanlon found - most of them a first for me!

What was the best thing to happen to you this week? Seeing my first *Arctic warbler* and second *Tennessee warbler*, what great birds.

What is the best thing about living in Fair Isle? It has to be the people who live here. Yeah, the birds are amazing but it would be a totally different experience if the people were different. Everyone has been so welcoming to Jonnie and I and we very quickly found out it is the people who make Fair Isle so special... And maybe a *Marmora's warbler* :)

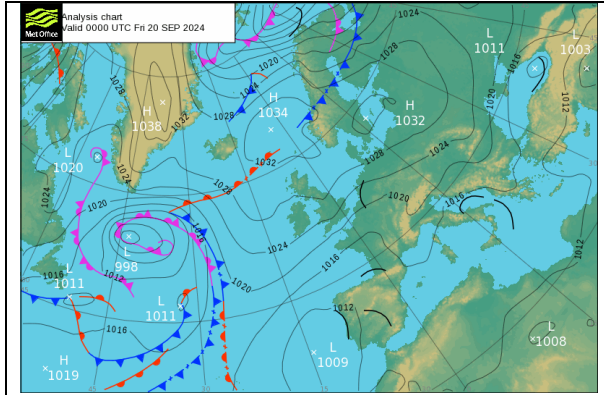
ISLE NOTICES

No Chapel this Sunday but an informal gathering at Utra at 11am on Sunday, all welcome to join.

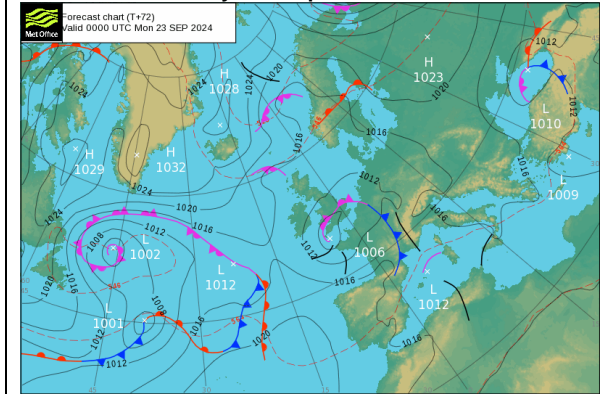


The final few trips of lambs and sheep getting taken to market have been happening this week – making the most of the fine weather. A low tide at the Haven on Thursday morning made it a steep slide down the ramp on to the deck! Thanks to Jonnie Fisk for the photo

FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



**Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
Friday 20th September 2024**



**Forecast Chart 0000 UTC
Monday 23rd September 2024**

GENERAL SITUATION Friday 20th September 2024

High pressure over the southern Norwegian Sea and southern Scandinavia continues to feed a light south-easterly airflow across Shetland. Little changes at first but as the high weakens a shallow low forming southwest of the British Isles drifts north-east over the North Sea bringing a fresher northerly airflow across Shetland for Monday. Next week, as high pressure over Iceland declines a developing Atlantic depression edges towards the British Isles. Later in the week, as the depression tracks across the south of the south of UK and into Scandinavia a northerly airflow freshens across northeast Scotland.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND Cooler at around 12° during the day, 10° overnight.

FRIDAY 20th: While the fog may lift to hill fog for a time this afternoon fog will return this evening and overnight with chance of a little drizzle. F2-3 ESE winds. **Sea State:** Slight with a 1 metre W wind swell.

SATURDAY 21st: Fog lifting to hill fog. Cloudy with a little drizzle possible and continuing likelihood of haar. F2-3 E winds. **Sea State:** Slight with a 1 metre N wind swell.

SUNDAY 22nd: Cloudy, mostly dry but continuing risk of haar. F2-3 ENE winds. **Sea State:** Slight with a 1 metre N wind swell, slight or moderate at 1 to 2 metre S east of Shetland.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK Temperatures 11° or 12° during the day, 9° overnight. **MONDAY 23rd:** Cloudy, mainly dry at first, some light rain by afternoon. Fresh N winds. **Sea State:** Slight with a 1 metre N wind swell. **TUESDAY 24th:** A brighter day with sunny spells, scattered showers and a fresh NNE breeze. **Sea State:** Mostly slight with a 1 metre N wind swell. **WEDNESDAY 25th – SUNDAY 29th:** Wednesday cloudy and mostly dry with lighter winds. Sunny spells and showers Thursday as N winds strengthen. The end of the week and weekend cloudy and drier as easing N winds back W. **Sea State Wednesday:** Moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre N wind swell.

Dave Wheeler

