

# FAIR ISLE TIMES

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## Movie Night

Last night I watched Sahara. It is about snakes. We had snacks. We ate Maltesers and Haribo and Wotsits. It was a good movie!

*By Heidi (7)*

## Sleepover

On Saturday I went to Nannan's and Daddad's for a sleepover. I had a burger for tea. It was brilliant. We watched Manchester United play Crystal Palace. It was nil-nil.

*By Ander (6)*

The school children have been reading 'Gangsta Granny' by David Walliams, and have written about their own!

### Nannan Pat

my Nanna n's name is Pat. she is  
Wears coloured glasses and  
Necklaces. She is beautiful. Nanna is  
kind and generous. I like baking  
delicious cakes with her. when we  
are together I feel happy.



## My Granny

My Granny's name is Jean and she has silver hair. She wears a necklace and glasses. She is kind and funny and generous. When mum and dad went on holiday she looked after us. She gives me cuddles. In 2023 she came to Fair Isle and stayed in School house. We went on some walks and spent time together. I love my granny and she makes me happy.



Harris (10)

## My Nona

My Granma Nona has orangey brown hair and a lovely smile. She has a bubbly, happy attitude to life. Last summer Nona came to Fair Isle. I remember when she saw Steven's kittens and wanted to smuggle all of them home! Nona makes me happy and safe.

Luca (9)



Nanna Pat

Nona Estela

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Last week, we were visited by a group from Nottingham University who are working on a new translation of the Orkneying saga. Much of the Orkneying saga refers to the Northern Isles, with Fair Isle mentioned, hence the team's decision to come to the isle to learn more about the isle and the dialect and place names in particular. There were various events over the week and many interesting discussions were had, including meetings with surely the highest percentage of attendees having read the book!

We'll include a piece by Corrina next week but first I wanted to include this by project leader, Judith, Professor of Viking age studies at the University of Nottingham, who is making a new translation of the saga





## Across the Waters - Judith Jesch

As a devotee of both the Shipping Forecast and Norse and Viking stuff, I have long been fascinated by Fair Isle. On a visit to Shetland some years ago, I picked up the 'Across the Waters' CD by Friðarey. I knew nothing about the group but loved the way they used the Old Norse name of the island and, even more, I loved the songs and the music. A day trip in 2021 gave me the urge to come for a proper visit (and I managed to climb Ward Hill in the sunshine then, as the photo shows). So here I was on the island in September 2024 and delighted to meet so many members of the fabulous Thomson/Sinclair clan who produced those magical sounds and who indeed know so much about their island's history.

Working on *Orkneyinga saga* over the years has given me much food for thought. Some of the most interesting episodes of the saga take place in Shetland, and especially in Fair Isle. While Corinna and Matthew beavered away on the names, my trampings around the island were to get a sense of what it was like in the Viking and Norse periods. Where was the infamous beacon lit? What materials did they use to construct and light a beacon on a

treeless isle? Where was the 'estate' where Dagfinnr lived? Could it have been on Bunes, given that the Old Norse word for his 'estate' in the saga is *bú*? (Matthew is thinking about this...). How often did people get 'carried off to Fair Isle' by the currents in Sumburgh Roost, as happened to Sveinn Ásleifarson? (I did wonder if this would happen to us on our return trip to Shetland on the ferry, but the Good Shepherd IV was just too good!). All the walking made me quite 'spægie' (thanks for this word Eileen!), but it really brought the saga to life, as



did the fascinating commentary on some of our walks from Pat and Neil.



The beacon episode in the saga is central to the political events of the twelfth century, especially the establishment of Rognvaldr as earl. But it is often the minor characters that are most interesting: Rognvaldr's father Kolr Kalason, who orchestrated it all, and his elderly adviser Uni, whose strategies ensured the success of the Shetland-friendly branch of the family. Although a bit of a duplicitous incomer (he ensures the beacon is not lit so Rognvaldr can sneak in), Uni seems to have been liked on Fair Isle, perhaps for that very reason (chapter 69):

Kolr goes back to Shetland at this, and says that Uni should now carry out his plan. Uni calls on three young Shetlanders to accompany him on his journey. They take a sixareen and some other equipment and fishing gear. They went to Fair Isle and Uni said he was a Norwegian and said he had married in Shetland and had

three sons there, said he had been robbed by Earl Rognvaldr's men and speaks very harshly of them. He takes up residence there, and his sons row out to the fishing, and he stays at home to look after their catch. He engages in conversation and knowledge exchange with the people there and he was well liked.

'Conversation and knowledge exchange' was the theme of our visit and we hope that people found it interesting and useful! And we promise not to interfere with any beacons.



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## ISLE NOTICES

**Chapel** – 11am on Sunday, all welcome to join. Dave B leading

**Harvest** – we will have the Harvest festival on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October. All home produce and crafts can be delivered to the Chapel on the Saturday afternoon, and we will hold the usual fun afternoon at the Hall on Sunday with craft and produce sale, raffle, games and lots of lovely homebakes. Get your thinking caps on for prizes for the raffle please! Thanks, Eileen

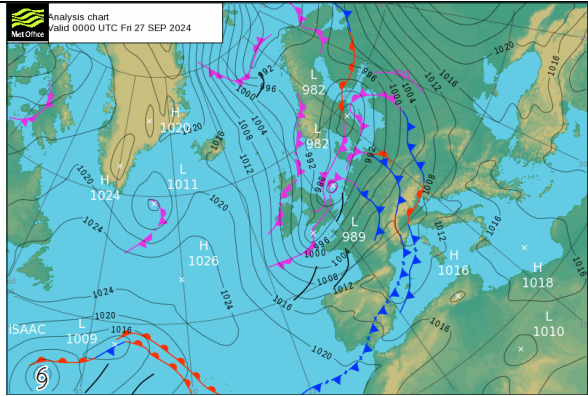
**Our Tiny Islands** - the isle featured in this programme on More4 this week, if you missed it you can catch up on the 4 player. It certainly makes the isle look calm and sunny all the time! <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/our-tiny-islands>

**Congratulations** to Marie at Taft who has launched her range of online Fair Isle patterns and her online machine knitting course this week! You can find out more and buy patterns here <https://www.fairislewithmarie.com/>

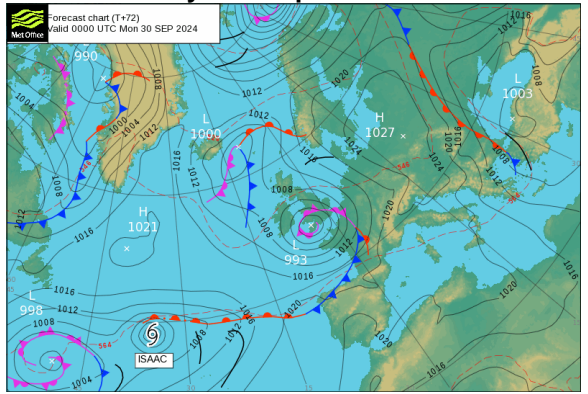
**Happy Birthday to Maavi!** Last seen flying towards the south of England for a few days to spot metal birds with his flock, we hope you have a fine time Maavi and come back soon!!



## FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0000 UTC  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024



Forecast Chart 0000 UTC  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### GENERAL SITUATION

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September

2024

With low pressure over the Baltic a strong northerly airflow is established across the British Isles. This eases through Saturday then frontal systems pushing east are forecast to bring rain and a milder southerly airflow later Sunday. As low pressure moves east over the UK a cooler strong northerly airflow returns Monday and Tuesday. Pressure building from the west brings a more settled couple of days midweek before Atlantic weather systems arrive for the following weekend.

### OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Cool today and Saturday at 7° or 8°, 4° or 5° tonight. Sunday milder with 11° or 12°, 9° overnight.

**FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup>:** Bright with showers, heavier and perhaps wintry later. Cold F5-6 N to NW winds. Clear spells and fewer showers overnight. F6 NW wind.

**Sea State:** Rough with a 3 metre N swell.

**SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup>:** Showers at first then drier with sunny spells. F5-6 NW wind easing F4-5. Cloudy

though dry overnight with a F3 SSE wind.

**Sea State:** Rough with a 3 to 4 metre NNW swell.

**SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup>:** Cloudy, showery rain at first then dry though cloudy. Further rain later and overnight. Light SSE wind freshening F5.

**Sea State:** Moderate to rough with a 2 to 3 metre NNW swell.

### FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK

Temperatures 11° or 12° by day, 9° or 10° overnight.

**MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup>:** Overcast with rain or drizzle. Mist and hill fog. Moderate ENE winds. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate with a 2 metre N swell.

**TUESDAY 1<sup>st</sup>:** Cloudy with showers dying out as occasionally strong NW winds back moderate SW.

**Sea State:** Moderate with a 2 metre NE swell.

**WEDNESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> – SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup>:** Wednesday and Thursday cloudy though mainly dry. Winds backing S, freshening through Friday with the likelihood of rain and strengthening SE winds for the weekend.

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

Dave Wheeler