

# FAIR ISLE TIMES

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This morning the school held a fundraising coffee morning for BBC Children in Need, raising an incredible £620!!! Huge thanks to all for coming along and all your donations! Also a massive thank you to BBC Radio Shetland who arranged for a visit from Pudsey Bear this week, surely one of the most important visitors to ever fly to the Isle on the Islander!

You can see a clip of Pudsey's visit [here](#)



## The Rabbit

On Sunday morning when Ander and I had just finished sticking up some Match of the Day magazine posters I heard Dad call me. He had seen a healthy rabbit. When say a healthy rabbit I mean it was not screaming like the one Jonnie found which died 3 hours after we placed it in its house!

The rabbit was right in front of the house so it only had two ways to get away. Dad and I took a washing basket and a clear box. I went round the east side and Dad went round the west side. Dad scared the rabbit and it ran past me so I chased it but it stopped at the front door and I went ahead of the rabbit and it turned round and ran straight in to the washing basket, yaaaaaay. We took it out of the basket. (It was a hard process, first we had to stick my arm under the basket and very carefully hold the rabbit and lift up the basket and we both carried the rabbit and put it in the hutch.) The rabbit was not heavy, we just did not want the rabbit to jump up out of our arms!

Luca (9)

On Sunday my brother caught a rabbit. It's called Rabbity. We are keeping it outside in a hutch. We put dandelion leaves in for the rabbit to eat.

By Ander (6)



Rabbity and his hutch by Ander



## Shetland Table Tennis Association

**WEDNESDAY 20th November 2024**

**FAIR ISLE HALL**

**7.30-9.30pm**

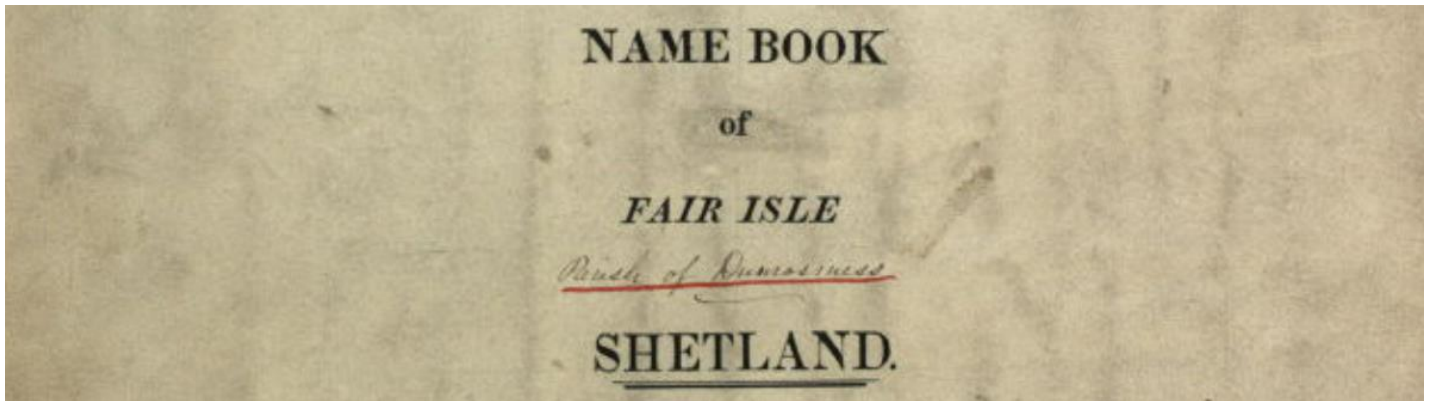


Open to all ages and abilities so bring the whole family along! Pop along to have a peerie hit, gentle exercise and a chat.

Try our fun challenges: **Run a round** **X and Os** **Hot Seat** **Winner stays on** **Doubles and lots more!**

## 'Cancelled, no room to write'!

### Fair Isle Place-Names and the Ordnance Survey Name Book



Following our visit to Fair Isle in September we've been continuing our work on researching the place-names and the [Ordnance Survey Name Books](#) are a valuable and productive resource for this. But, for places like the small island of Fair Isle it seems there just wasn't enough room to write all the names that were collected onto the map!

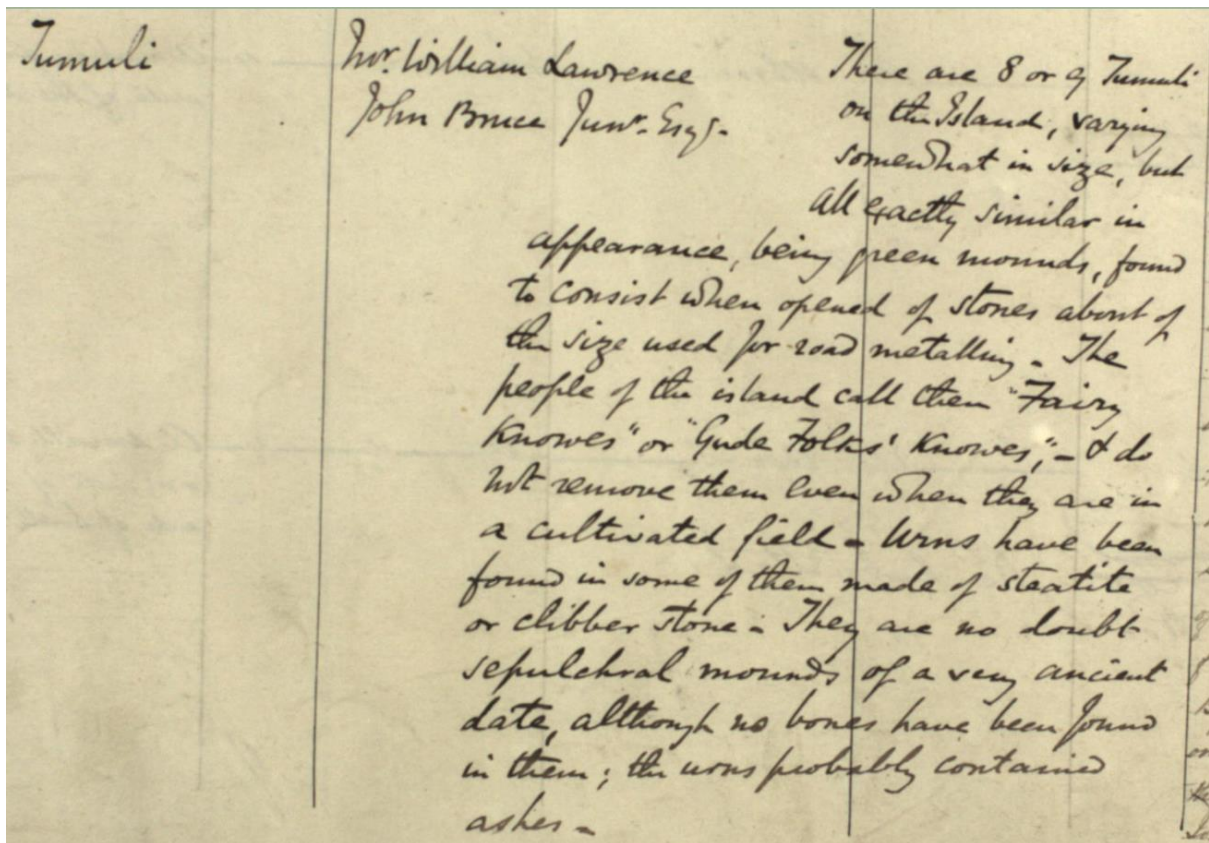
A bit of background first: these books contain the place-name information, and the sources of that information, systematically gathered by officers of the Ordnance Survey to inform the drawing of maps. What they recorded varies a little, but all essentially contain columns that include the 'name – as written on the plan', the 'various modes of spelling the name', the 'authority' for those spellings (that is, named people from the islands such as teachers, farmers, factors etc.), 'situation' and 'descriptive remarks'.

The books for the Highlands (and Islands) were 'essentially a "field" version of the name book' for which the officers also consulted with 'local historians and etymologists (authorities) in order to fix the spelling (the received name) of each "object" (natural feature, inhabited place, building and so on)' ([Scotland's Places](#)). It is clear from the volumes that a certain amount of editing was carried out by staff back at the office, so to speak, and that this post-fieldwork activity involved the addition of data collected from other 'sources such as early maps, historical texts or local scholarly bodies' ([Scotland's Places](#)). Indeed, one [source](#) for some of the Orkney name books is [Orkneyinga saga](#)!

As well as the twenty-six volumes that cover Orkney (containing 8788 entries and surveyed in 1879-80) a further twenty-six volumes cover Shetland (containing 11980 entries and surveyed in 1877-78). For the Ragna's Islands project we're making use of Orkney volumes 13 (which contains [North Ronaldsay](#)), 26 (which contains [Papay](#)), and Shetland volume 11 (which contains [Fair Isle](#)).

Each volume has been transcribed on the [Scotland's Places website](#) and the transcriptions sit alongside the digital images for each page. The place-names can, helpfully, be browsed in [alphabetical order](#). Some of the 'names', however, refer to a 'cairn', 'tumulus', 'stone cist', 'standing stone' etc., and so in practice there are fewer actual place-names. Having said that, these particular entries can be instructive in terms of, for example, the archaeological and folkloric information they provide. A good illustration is this entry from the Fair Isle volume which remarks on [tumuli near Sheep Craig](#), it reads:

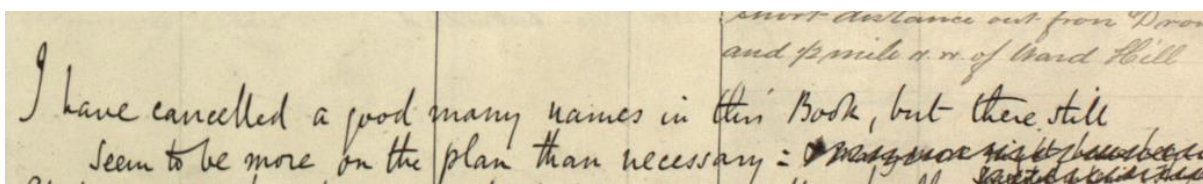
'There are 8 or 9 Tumuli on the Island, varying somewhat in size, but all exactly similar in appearance, being green mounds, found to consist when opened of stones about of the size used for road metalling. The people of the island call them "Fairy Knowes" or "Gude Folks' Knowes", - & do not remove them even when they are in a cultivated field. Urns have been found in some of them made of steatite or clibber stone. They are no doubt sepulchral mounds of a very ancient date, although no bones have been found in them; the urns probably contained ashes.'



Detail from the name book for Fair Isle. Shetland, Vol. 11, 1877-1878, [OS1/31/11/92](#).

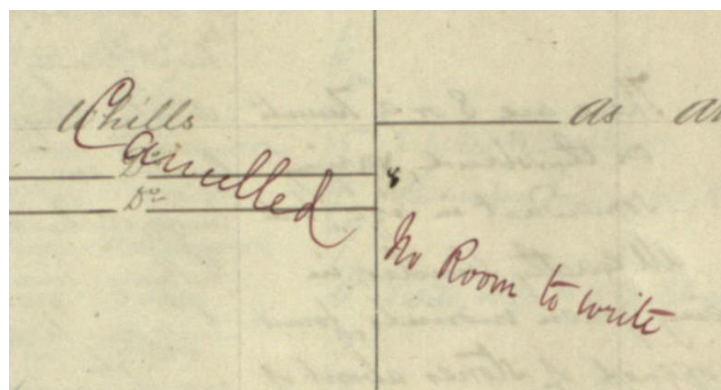
For the three islands we're researching, the 'island' entry (not necessarily the first entry) contains a brief description of the island and records, by name and where they lived, who the authorities were for the spellings of the place-names. A nice example is the Fair Isle volume which contains detailed information about the [island's population](#), as well a commentary on [fishing, crofting and weaving and knitting](#) at the time that the 1877-78 survey was undertaken.

Now back to the reason behind the title for this article. There is an interesting note on page 3 of the [Fair Isle volume](#), it reads 'I have cancelled a good many names on this Book, but there still seem to be more on the plan than necessary'.



Detail from the name book for Fair Isle. Shetland, Vol. 11, 1877-1878, [OS1/31/11/3](#).

And further on in the volume we find the following entry:

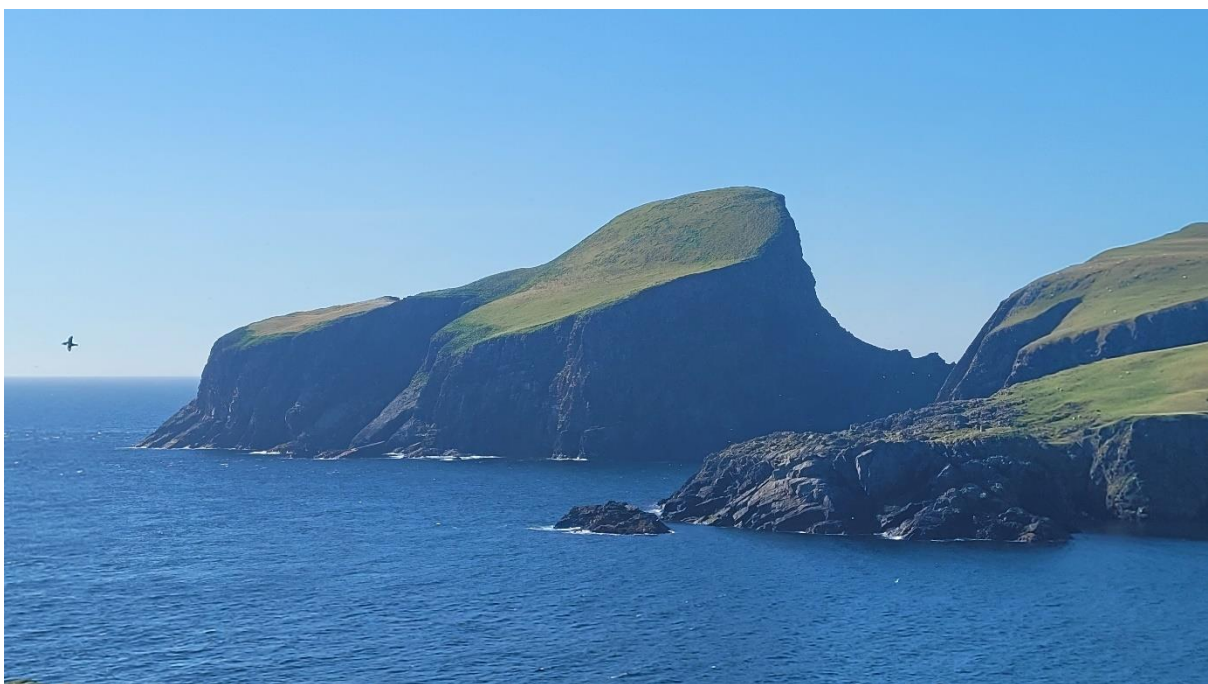


Detail from the name book for Fair Isle. The excerpt reads, 'Cancelled No Room to write'. Shetland, Vol. 11, 1877-1878, [OS1/31/11/91](#).

So, the officer in the field had collected too many names whilst surveying Fair Isle to include on the finished map, and not only that, despite a number of 'cancellations' back at the office... there were still too many! Happily, however, even though many names are struck through in the volume, we can still make them out. The name that is cancelled above is 'Whills' which refers to the 'narrow and impassable ridge' that connects Fair Isle to Sheep Craig (also known as Sheep Rock), perhaps from ON (Old Norse) *hals* 'neck, ridge, mountain pass' ([ONP](#)).



Detail from the [1895 Hydrographic Office admiralty chart](#) for Fair Isle showing Sheep Craig and the narrow neck of land between it and the island. (Admiralty Chart 2622). Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.



Sheep Craig, with narrow neck of land called Whills joining it to the main island.

As part of the present project, we're hoping to capture these 'cancelled' names to include in the place-names database we're putting together as they are, perhaps, an unmined source of information that could tell us more about the topography and archaeology of the islands we're researching.

Corinna Rayner, Matthew Blake and Judith Jesch.  
Ragna's Islands Project  
University of Nottingham

## Fair Isle Demonstration and Research MPA Update

### **Reminder: Fair Isle Sea Caves talk Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 7pm at the hall.**

Please join us for an evening talk from Dan Harries (Heriot-Watt University) and Carol Hume (NatureScot) who will present an overview of the Fair Isle sea cave survey which was carried out in 2021, following the publication of the survey report by NatureScot earlier this year.

This will include an overview of the survey's findings including aims, survey methods, results, future recommendations and what this means for Fair Isle. This will be a remote talk which will be screened from the Fair Isle community hall, so there will be plenty of opportunities for the audience joining either in-person or remotely to ask questions. There will be tea, coffee and cake afterwards. If you would like to attend the talk **online** the link to join will be shared on the Marine WhatsApp group in advance. Otherwise please email Katie at [katie.cubbon@nature.scot](mailto:katie.cubbon@nature.scot) for the link to join online.

**Reminder: Shetland Marine Restoration Plan Feedback Survey closes 20<sup>th</sup> November:** UHI Shetland are asking Fair Isle and Shetland residents to share their thoughts on how we can safeguard, restore, and enhance our marine environment to help shape a community-led action plan to enhance Shetland's marine environment for the benefit of everyone. UHI Shetland are currently gathering ideas and identifying areas that could benefit from action. The goal is to ensure that our efforts are locally relevant and supported by both local evidence and the community. The survey is available online here: <https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/uhi/enhancemarine>

**Marine Alliance for Science and Technology Scotland (MASTS) conference:** Last week Katie (Fair Isle DR MPA research officer) attended the annual MAST AGM conference in Glasgow. This was a great opportunity to hear about some of the fascinating marine research happening around Scotland which will help to inform some of the marine research happening around the isle. This includes plankton modelling and marine mammal research using passive acoustic monitoring. Katie was also asked to share some of Fair Isle's experience during the campaign for the Fair Isle Demonstration and Research MPA designation as part of a 'linking community empowerment in restoration and conservation projects' workshop.

Katie will be in Fair Isle from the 28<sup>th</sup> November to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December if anyone would like to have a chat about the Fair Isle DR MPA and recent project activity.

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### **Many thanks to Jimmy from Skerryholm for the lovely tribute below to a lady well-known and liked by many here in the isle over the years**

Christine Black died last week, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November. Few people here now knew her, but for those like myself who did, her memory is a treasure and knowing her was a privilege.

Christine Moncrieff was born 91 years ago at Voe, in the Ness, so when I went first to Lerwick school, age 12, she was only 22, but already living at Grutness and running the Post Office with her husband Geordie Black - a man much older than she was. Her path of life was already mapped out, while ours, as yet unknown, was still before us.

When we came off Good Shepherd II, cold and sick, she took us to her home where we were comforted, before our onward journey to Lerwick. None of us who travelled that path will ever forget the kindness and love that was given so freely to us; truly she was the modern Good Samaritan.

All my life I have known Christine and she never changed, being always friendly, welcoming and, if required, more than helpful. Her door was always open, holding, until recent times, the key of the Grutness Store, which was a position of trust and responsibility for all parties - accepted rather than rewarded.

Times change, people pass on. This is Armistice time - a time to remember and reflect and give thanks for memories of lives well-lived, through all the changing scenes.

Jimmy

# ISLE NOTICES

**Poppy Appeal 2024** – If anyone would still like to donate to the Poppy Appeal this year, please give your donation to Fiona asap. Thanks

**Chapel** – CANCELLED this week due to weather and colds doing the rounds!

**Fair Isle Committee quarterly meeting** – Next isle meeting will be held at the Hall Committee Room, on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. Please send any items for the agenda to David Parnaby by 22nd November, and there will of course be mince pies at the meeting!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** Huge congratulations to Triona at Quoy who is unbelievably turning 80 this weekend. All the best for the day and year to come Triona!

**Oral History Session 3** - thank you to everyone that came to the last oral history session where, amongst other brilliant stories, we heard about Stewart riding a pig whilst wearing his Sunday best!! The afternoon time slot seemed to work well so we'll have the next session at 3pm in the committee room on Friday 22nd November - everyone is welcome and there'll be coffee and cake. This time we're going to chat about schooling, religion and social activities in the isle but please let me know if you have any suggestions for future topics that you'd like to talk about. For those unable to make it in person, there is an online link here to join in via Zoom:

Topic: Oral History Session 3

Time: Nov 22, 2024 03:00 PM Greenwich Mean Time

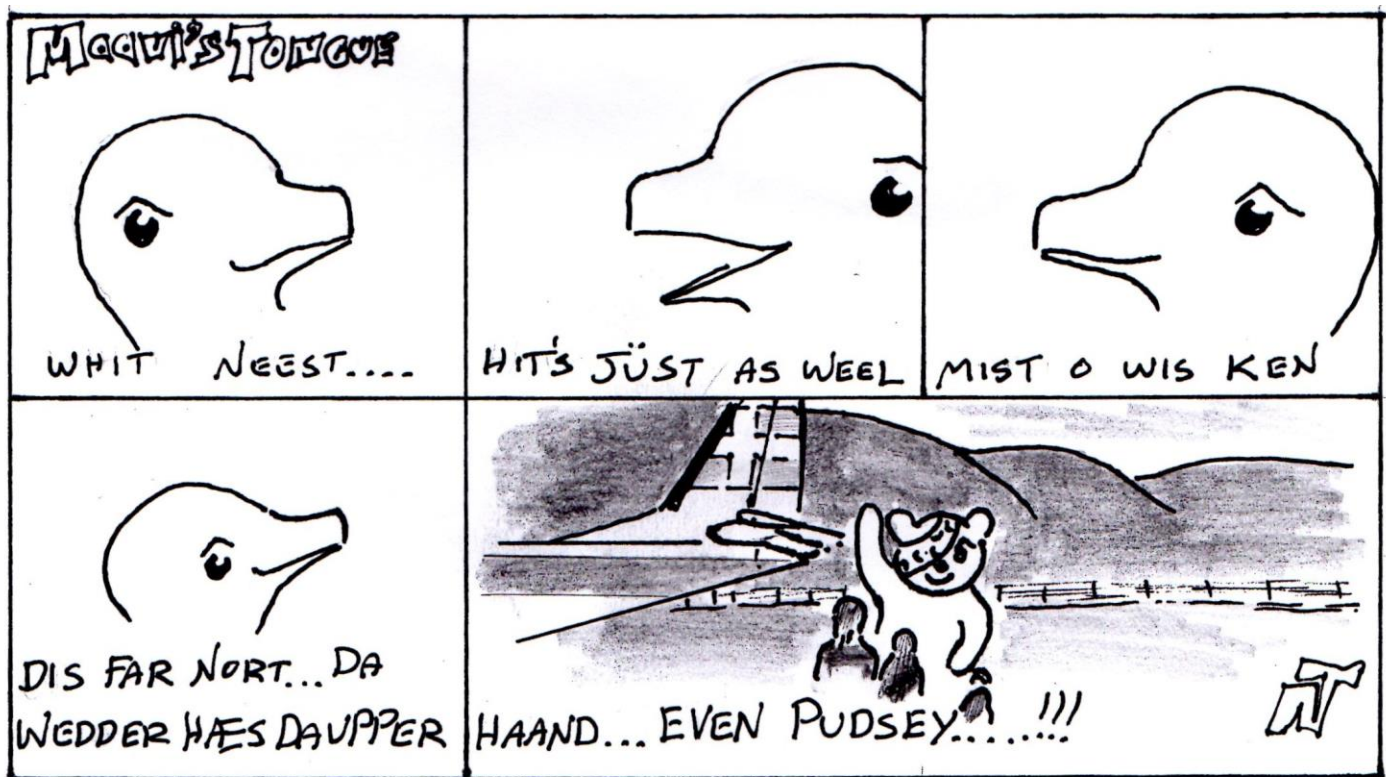
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/83378513700?pwd=ELbPBYkw6hCRRsF7gxmdQQqs7rxHim.1>

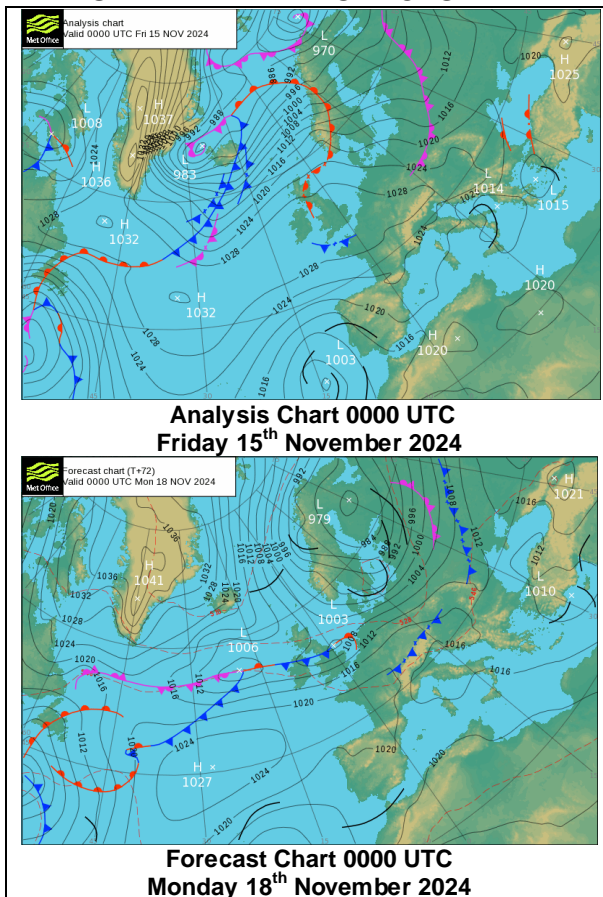
Meeting ID: 833 7851 3700

Passcode: h7iALn

Rachel, Barkland.



## FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



### GENERAL SITUATION Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024

With high pressure having retreated away into the near-Continent the north of Scotland lies in a strong south- westerly airflow circulating around a depression near Iceland. An associated cold front moving east introduces a strong and cooler westerly later today and north-westerly for the weekend. Early next week, as the low drifts towards the Baltic a developing depression west of the British Isles is forecast to track east over the south of the UK introducing into northern Scotland a colder Polar Maritime northerly airflow for the start of next week. As this latest low centre drifts across the North Sea towards the Baltic a strong slightly less-cold north to northeasterly persists through next week.

### OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

A mild start to Friday at 11° falling to 7° by late evening and 5° overnight. Around 6° on Saturday and 5° on Sunday, 3° or 4° overnight.

**FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup>:** Cloudy with chance of some drizzle at first, with rain spreading from the west during the afternoon. The rain, persistent and heavier for a time, clearing to showers early evening as F6-7 SW winds

turn W F6 to gale F8. Clear spells and showers overnight with F6-7 W winds. **Sea State:** Rough at 3 to 4 metre W.

**SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup>:** Sunny spells and showers, more frequent and perhaps wintry later. F7 to gale F8 W to WNW winds gusting 60mph. Scattered wintry showers overnight. NW winds easing F6-7. **Sea State:** Mostly high at 7 to 8 metre WNW.

**SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup>:** Sunny spells and blustery showers, some heavy and increasingly wintry by evening. F6-7 NW to NNW winds occasionally gale F8. Winds easing overnight. **Sea State:** Mostly very rough at 5 metre NW.

### FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK

Cold at 4° or 5° by day, 3° or 4° overnight. A little less cold from mid-week.

**MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup>:** Sunny spells and wintry showers. Feeling cold in a fresh N wind. Winds strengthening overnight.

**Sea State:** Mostly rough at 3 to 4 metre N.

**TUESDAY 19<sup>th</sup>:** Brighter spells between wintry showers. Cold with fresh or strong N winds veering NNE late morning and increasing gale to severe gale-force by afternoon with possible 70mph gusts. Wind easing overnight. **Sea State:** Mostly rough at 3 to 4 metre N.

**WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> – SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup>:** Wintry showers on Wednesday, a fresh to strong N to NE wind increasing gale-force later. Remaining cold for the rest of the week with fresh to strong N'y winds and scattered showers, wintry at times. **Sea State Wednesday:** Mostly rough at 3 to 4 metre N.

Dave Wheeler