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Our News

My Weekend

At the weekend we had the best party ever. Freyja and Grace came. They were home for the weekend from the high school. The party was for Anne (80) and Pat (70). It was so fun because we made a disco room upstairs. People had to buy a ticket (or a VIP one with a snack!) and exchange it for merchandise and then join the disco. Lots of people came to the disco. After that, me and Luca went to bed.

On Sunday we watched Harry Potter (The Order of the Phoenix). I hadn't seen it before and I really liked it.

Ander (7)

My Weekend

On Saturday we held a massive birthday party for Pat and Anne's birthdays. Ander, Freyja, Grace and I made a brilliant disco. Ander was the boss because it was his idea. Freyja set it up with Ander and I. We got Grace to help Ander make adverts. I was the DJ, Freyja worked the ticket stand and Ander partied with Grace. It was a huge success.

On Sunday we sat on the sofa all day, we did not even get dressed! I did manage to walk around the house a little bit and have a bath. I watched Man U beat Fulham, 1-0. It was a really boring match.

Luca (9)

Our Up Helly Aa Holiday

On Wednesday the school was shut because it was the day after Up Helly Aa and all Shetland schools were closed. We got up about 9 o'clock and stuck up lots of football posters in our bedroom and then we went downstairs and watched some TV because Eileen had a meeting. Then we went up to Pat and Neil's house and finally demolished the printer. It had broken a long time ago so we destroyed it. Pat bought the same printer again. We played with

Lego for a bit and then we went up to the hall and played football and French cricket. We had Yorkshire puddings and gravy for tea. We also had black pudding. Then we went home, did our homework, cleaned our mouse house out, read some Harry Potter and went to bed.

Luca and Ander

3 Minute Free Writing

At school we do 3 minute free writing each day. We choose a topic/title and discuss it. Then we have 3 minutes to write about it. It does not have to be true! Here are some of our favourites:

A Sushi Feast

Sushi is rice and fish which is sometimes wrapped in seaweed. I could not use the chopsticks. I really liked the salmon with the rice. Nigiri does not have seaweed in it and Maki does. The rice had to be mashed because it did not stick.

Luca

Mice

Mice are animals. They poo everywhere. I have a pet mouse. It is called Musy.

Ander

Mice

Mice are horrible balls of fluff which are pests. They do not look bad but they chomp away on anything. Some keep them as a pet but they poop and poo a lot. You also have to clean them out a lot.

Luca

Dogs

I saw a dog and it was flying. There was a dog in Japan. A dog was playing with a ball.

Ander

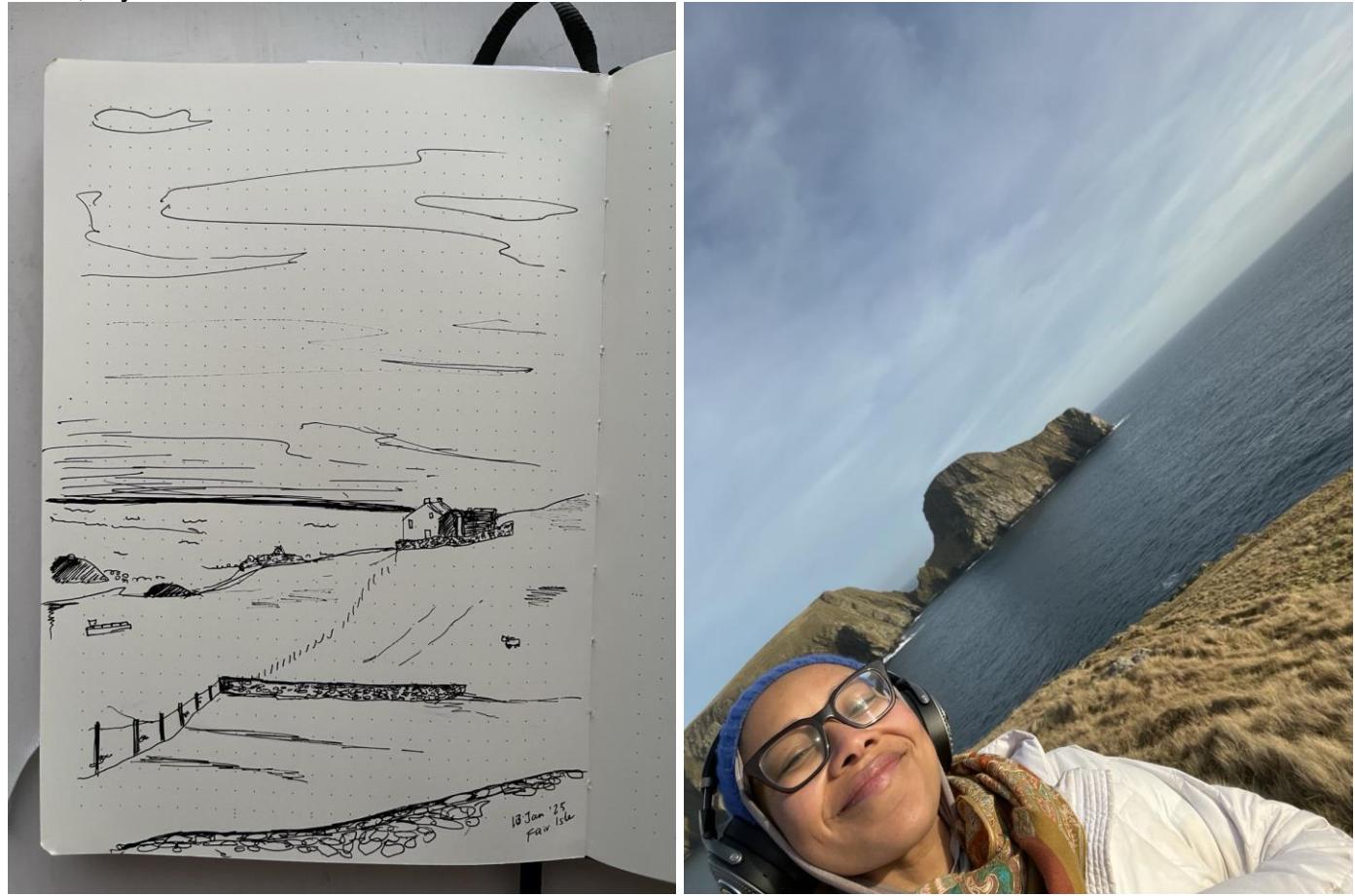
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO PAT at Stoneybrek! Hope you have a wonderful 70th birthday!!!

This week we meet Yassmin Abdel-Magied, an intrepid writer spending January at the Fair Isle Studio, Lower Leogh...

Hello, Fair Islanders!

Thank you so much for having me on your gorgeous isle for the last couple of weeks. You may know me as the 'woman in the huge white coat' wandering aimlessly around the fields (providing entertainment for those watching me fall as I clamber over fences). When I'm not having conversations with sheep, I'm writing - [books](#), [journalism](#), television (my first episode of Emmerdale comes out in March!) and more. Folks often ask 'what I write about', but I find it difficult to offer a straight forward answer. From fiction novels set on oil rigs to non-fiction philosophical [essays](#) to deep dives on [culture](#) emerging from my homeland, Sudan, I write whatever I can get away with. But if I were to narrow it down, I can maybe give you a *why*. I write to make sense of the world. I like... making intellectual ideas accessible. Like, how do we live our values? What does justice *really* look like? How do the stories we tell ourselves, as people and as societies, shape us? What on earth is the meaning of all this?

I suppose my writing reflects my life - a little unorthodox. I've founded and run community organisations, studied engineering, built race cars, hosted television shows, lived in five countries and worked in twenty more. I generally enjoy a bit of an adventure, and am endlessly curious. Thus, my arrival here!



I was drawn to Fair Isle for its remote location, for its unique character, by my desire to meet and get to know the kinds of folks who make a far-flung island their home. Indeed, I've been so taken by your wonderful island that it will feature in the book I'm currently writing, the second in forthcoming teen adventure/fantasy series to be published by Hachette next year, inshallah. But that's just our secret, alright? ;)

If you want to follow my work, the best way is to subscribe to my [substack](#). I'm in Lower Leogh for another week, and then all things going well, I'll be back in November inshallah. So if we don't get a chance for a brew this time around, rest assured I'll be back! :D



*Sheep pause munching
lift their heads at once
and stare, expectant like
a theatre audience
silence, for the show begins.*

*Donning thick pelts sprayed grotesque colour
wool barbie pink, slime green, yellow head
the fields now fashion editorial
runway to the edge of the world*

*Muzzles twitch as the realisation hits
One by one then all at once
There is no performance, nor snacks today
Time only to sashay away*

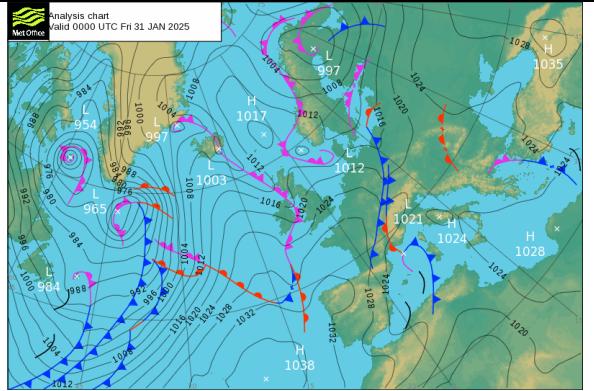
I just had a friend remind me of this podcast done about my story some time ago, which might also be interesting for the younguns :) <https://soundcarrot.com/shows/rebel-girls-podcast/yassmin-abdel-magied-difference-is-a-super-power/>

Oral History Session: Please note that this week's planned oral history session is going to be postponed to **Friday 7th February**. Details will remain the same - 3pm in the Committee Room, coffee and cake provided, all welcome! Rachel (Barkland)

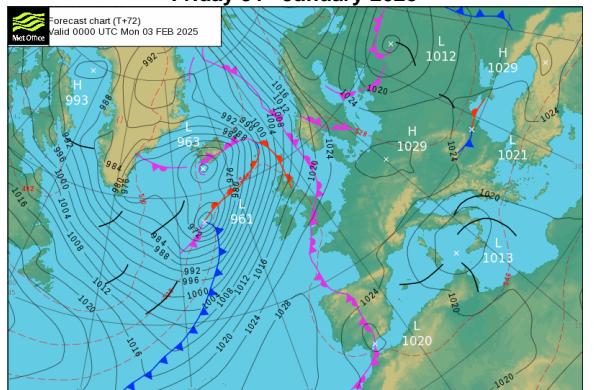
Chapel – All welcome to join in worship at the Chapel on Sunday at 11am

Pier improvements team – BAM, the principal contractors for the improvements at the North Haven are due in to the isle this coming Monday, staying till Wednesday. They are planning to hold an open session in the Hall for residents to meet the team and ask any questions on Wednesday morning. More details to follow by email. Eileen

FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
Friday 31st January 2025



Forecast Chart 0000 UTC
Monday 3rd February 2025

GENERAL SITUATION Friday 31st January 2025

A weak ridge builds north over Scotland today with a slack airflow freshening southerly tonight ahead of fronts pushed east by a large depression near Iceland. Fronts move slowly east during the weekend, eventually clearing Shetland by Monday with a showery west south-westerly airflow following for Tuesday. Wednesday sees this backing southerly ahead of another depression, this one forecast to track east across the south of the UK Wednesday and Thursday. By the weekend yet another large depression is predicted over the north Atlantic with southerly winds strengthening strong to gale across the British Isles.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND Temperatures 6° or 7° by day, 5° or 6° overnight.

FRIDAY 31st: Rather cloudy but mostly dry with sunshine developing by afternoon. F2-4 N winds backing W later F4 S. Mainly dry though cloudy overnight, S winds freshening F5. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate at 2 metre NW.

SATURDAY 1st: Dry and bright with sunny spells. F5-6 S wind. Cloudy evening with rain overnight. **Sea State:** Mostly rough at 3 metre S but moderate 2 metre east of Shetland.

SUNDAY 2nd: Cloudy morning with patchy rain. Afternoon mainly dry and bright. F5-6 SSW winds easing F3-4. **Sea State:** Rough at 3 to 4metre SW.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK. Temperatures around 7° or 8° by day, around 6° overnight.

MONDAY 3rd: Dry, rather cloudy start, sunny spells by afternoon. Strong S winds. **Sea State:** Mostly very rough at 5 to 6 metre SW. East of Shetland rough at 3 metre S. **TUESDAY 4th:** Cloudy with rain, mostly light. Fresh SSW winds veering W. **Sea State:** Mostly very rough at 4 to 5 metre SW. East of Shetland rough at 3 metre S. **WEDNESDAY 5th – SUNDAY 9th:** Wednesday dry and bright with fresh SW winds. Thursday cloudy but mainly dry with freshening S winds bringing overnight rain. Showers dying out Friday but cloudy with fresh SE winds. Strengthening S winds and rain for the weekend with chance of gales. **Sea State Wednesday:** Mostly very rough at 4 to 5 metre W. East of Shetland moderate at 2 metre W.

Dave Wheeler

Looks like Maavi has been joining the Viking history talks on place names this week...

