



VOLUME 48 ISSUE 7

PUBLISHED SINCE 1978

21st FEBRUARY 2025

### **My sorting weekend**

On Saturday we tidied up the house and sorted things out. After that, Ander and I went to Pat and Neil's house then Mum came up to watch Gladiators and we also watched some gladiators pranking each other. Next we ate tea and for pudding we had jelly and ice-cream. It was yummy.

On Sunday, guess what we did? More sorting and cleaning of course! We tidied up a very messy cupboard in our porch. After that we went to play football in the hall. We were there for about half an hour. Ander and I then ran down to Nannan and Daddad's house to watch Manchester United lose 1 – 0 to Tottenham. Man U were rubbish.

### **Luca (9)**

### **A really good weekend**

I had a really good weekend. We went to the hall to play football on Sunday. We played for half an hour.

At home we cleaned our porch. We chucked out some old stuff. We found our old paddling pool which had a very small hole in it. Then we put the good stuff in boxes. And all of it was fun.

### **Ander (7)**

### **ISLE NOTICES**

- **No Chapel** this weekend due to the poor forecast for Sunday
- **Oral History Sessions** - The next session will be on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 3pm in the committee room and we'll be discussing sheep! As always, there'll be coffee and cake provided and all are welcome. For those who would like to participate but are unable to join us in person, please find the Zoom link below:

Topic: Oral History Session

Time: Feb 28, 2025 03:00 PM Greenwich Mean Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84412460855?pwd=i0Hhu2hvKLHbtOBDRoAEoWBTgY5Wd0.1>

Meeting ID: 844 1246 0855

Passcode: UuPUy0

Warmest wishes, Rachel at Barkland

- **Change to Good Shepherd sailing – w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> March.** A reminder that the scheduled sailing to Grutness on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> of March will now take place weather/crew permitting on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March.  
Thanks, Ian - Master, Good Shepherd IV
- **Fair Isle Committee AGM and quarterly meeting and Fair Isle Development Company AGM.** The FIC will hold its annual AGM plus quarterly meeting on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm, preceded by a brief AGM for FIDC at 7.00pm. A good attendance is requested (there will be tea/coffee and homebakes). Any items for either agenda to Eileen and David ASAP please.
- **SIC Housing Survey.** The SIC is conducting a survey to find out if the lack of available housing is having an effect on businesses. While we are owned by NTS, there are SIC properties here, and it could be very helpful if isle businesses would complete the survey to highlight the issue in Fair Isle too. More info at:  
<https://www.shetnews.co.uk/2025/02/18/council-survey-asks-businesses-lack/> and you can take the survey [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

### Da week and fine wedder dat's awa...

The Isle and its inhabitants have been truly spoilt with some amazing weather in February. Many days of calm, bright weather and we have finally seen some of the gutter around the isle drying up. Dave Wheeler told us last week that we had only had 30% of the usual rain for February by the half-way point in the month, I have the feeling that the next week might change that. What timing for my windscreen wipers to give up the ghost. I was reminded of Daddad's solution to non-functioning wipers: a piece of string tied about them and pulled from the inside!

A few of us made the most of the boannie weather last week when we had a visit from Liz Musser, friend and former Isle resident, who was here to do some filming for a show being commissioned for Channel 4 - can't say much more yet but it was fun and the isle was certainly at its best weather-wise!

As most isle folk will know, Guillermo has been away to take part on his Breathing Apparatus training course for the fire service. The course is 2 weeks long, but factor in Fair Isle to Stornoway travel and a few days weather disruption and it becomes 3. He enjoyed the course very much and all participants passed which will be good news for all their respective fire crews. Unusual though it is to send Shetland crews to Lewis for training, Guillermo enjoyed getting to see a different part of the world and managed trips to Lews Castle and the standing stones at Callanish, making it very worthwhile. Loganair is thankfully much more reliable than it was a few years ago so the travel plans went smoothly. You will have read in the school piece about me forcing our boys to help tidying up the house over the weekend – well, “forcing” is a strong word as they did volunteer. I find the key to getting the bairns to tidy up is to watch *Sort Your Life Out* on the BBC, which then inspires us all to *haive awa bruck*. I found I can lay carpet (small pieces anyway) and came across some useful finds lurking in the forgotten depths of various cupboards in the house – altogether a success! We have been well fed by kind family members over the last peerie while which is always appreciated. Food made by someone else's hands always tastes better!

Monday dawns and it is a fine day – good news as plenty folk wanting to travel, including Guillermo arriving home for a few days before the next trip away, our Head Teacher based in Sandwick for his first visit to the isle, and Jonnie and Alex, returning to the Obs but this time as permanent residents rather than seasonal staff. We are so pleased that they got the *top jobs* and know that they will do well - it will be so exciting to see FIBO reborn after 5 long years – I’m hoping they have space for us isle residents to buy a Sunday lunch now and again, that was always a treat! Back to travel, and with the forecasts all agreeing that today might be the final chance for travel for some time to come, Guillermo has to make the decision to very quickly repack his suitcase and head out on the afternoon flight, as the meetings in Barcelona next week are pretty important. Oh well – at least he was home for a few hours – and he better bring us lots of nice *chorizo* and *jamon* from Spain!!!

The good thing about the poor forecast is that the Shirva lasses, only due in on Thursday afternoon for the long weekend, get sent home on Monday as the Hostel at the High School doesn’t want to be stuck open (Freyja and Grace seemed pretty delighted too!). They kindly invite our 2 down to play after the plane which cheers the boys up right away!

Plenty of admin to get on with at the moment: The NTS Area Manager, Angus Murray, is due to visit the isle for the first time shortly, and the Fair Isle Development Company are working away on various exciting projects. We hear our school is due an inspection, which is long overdue but nonsense at a time when we have not had a permanent teacher for 5 months! Thankfully we hear later in the week that the inspection has been postponed, I’m not sure why, but hopefully they have come to their senses. We have a wonderful school and I’m sure that would come across, but it makes little sense until at least we have our new teacher in post. This should be in May and we are very much looking forward to that, even though our boys have been very well looked after by excellent supply teachers, as well as Hollie! Keeping on the subject of school Luca and Ander are very happy at no longer being the only 2 in the school – with peerie Brodie starting nursery recently. He is clearly enjoying every minute too – not that we are surprised – he is a peerie cracker and ready for the fun that nursery brings.

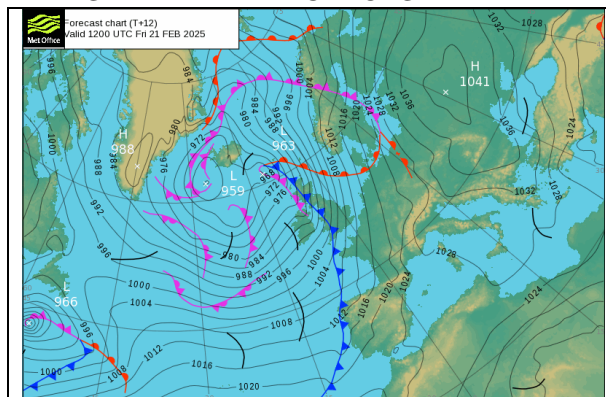
Away from the isle the news is worrying everywhere you look. Trump and his cronies – “*seek a band o billies*” as the auld eens would say - are getting worse. Let’s hope that the sensible governments around the globe can stand up for common sense, real democracy and for the targets of Trump’s “*wisdom*”. I feel so devastated for Palestinians and Ukrainians, they must feel it more than most.

Marie has been keeping me happily busy with knitwear finishing this winter, and in amongst busy days it is always nice to sit for an hour or so and do some grafting or sewing. I’m pretty good at spending money so fine to earn it too! We have a busy summer ahead with our highest number of cruise ships booked, so I am planning how much food we will need to keep the visitors happy. I didn’t count how many scones, pancakes, bits of shortbread etc I made last year but thousands of each for sure!

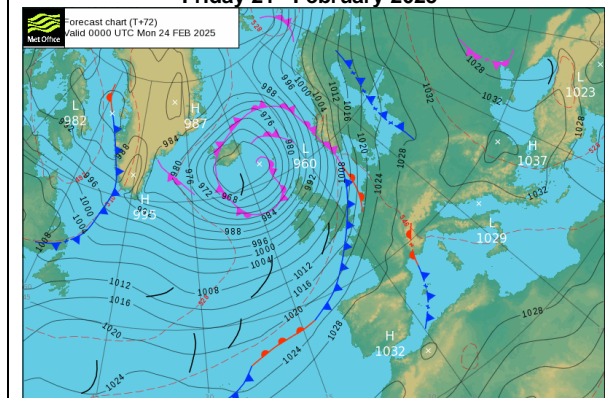
Now it’s the weekend, an early one at that as we have the long weekend for February half term. Forecast is looking better for tomorrow so we will hopefully get out and enjoy some fresh air then, but for today I think we will stay indoors and be grateful we don’t have to be out feeding sheep!

All the best,  
Eileen, Houll

## FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Forecast Chart 1200 UTC  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025



Forecast Chart 0000 UTC  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025

### GENERAL SITUATION Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025

High pressure having moved east Atlantic low pressure systems can now drive weather systems across the British Isles. The first of these, associated with a depression south of Iceland will affect Shetland today. While fronts soon clear as the depression tracks into the Norwegian Sea they are quickly followed by more on Sunday, driven by the next Atlantic depression heading towards Iceland. As this also tracks away into the Norwegian Sea a zonal westerly airflow develops over northern Scotland until midweek. The next depression may follow a different path passing close to Shetland next weekend.

**OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND** Friday mild at 10° by day, 7° overnight, with 8° by day and 6° overnight for the weekend.

**FRIDAY 21<sup>st</sup>:** Occasionally heavy rain soon extending north as SE winds increase gale F8 and by late afternoon to severe gale F9 with gusts to 70-75mph possible. Early evening sees the rain clearing and the wind eases and veers SSW F5-6. Dry though rather cloudy overnight with a fresh SSW wind occasionally strong. **Sea State:** Rough or very rough at 4 to 5 metre SSW.

**SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Mainly dry with sunny spells and F5-6 SSW winds. Dry overnight, clear spells at first then cloud thickening as S winds freshen. **Sea State:** Very rough at 5 to 6 metre SW.

**SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup>:** SSE winds strengthen gale F8 with rain, heavy at times soon arrives. SSE to S gales strengthen severe gale F9 by midday, gusting 60-65mph. Gales abate and rain clears early evening. Cloudy though mainly dry overnight with F7 S winds. **Sea State:** Rough or very rough at 4 to 5 metre SSW.

**FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK** Temperatures 6° or 7° by day, 4° or 5° overnight. A degree or so cooler from midweek until the weekend. **MONDAY 24<sup>th</sup>:** Mainly dry, with bright spells though windy with near-gale SSW winds. **Sea State:** Mostly rough or very rough at 4 to 6 metre SW. Highest in the west and Fair Isle Channel.

**TUESDAY 25<sup>th</sup>:** Rather cloudy with showers and strong SW winds. **Sea State:** Mostly rough at 3 to 4 metre WSW. Highest in the west and Fair Isle Channel.

**WEDNESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> – SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Wednesday cloudy with showers and fresh to strong SW winds. Thursday cooler with fresh NW winds and showers with winds easing by Friday. The weekend perhaps wet and windy with risk of SSW gale. **Sea State Wednesday:** Moderate east of Shetland at 2 metre W, otherwise mostly rough at 3 to 4 metre W.

Dave Wheeler

