



VOLUME 48 ISSUE 9

PUBLISHED SINCE 1978

7th MARCH 2025



Interview with Jonnie

1. What is your name?

Jonnie Fisk (Fisk is a Norwegian name meaning fish)

2. Where do you come from?

I'm from Yorkshire in England. I come from Harrogate in North Yorkshire. It is very famous for its spring water. The water used to have sulphur in it and the Victorians used to think it was good for them and drank loads of it! There is still a spring that you can visit and try it.

3. Where else have you lived before moving here?

I have lived in Newcastle, Durham and Hull. I also lived in Norway when I was a teenager. The island was called Vardo. It is in the arctic and the island was very flat. Between November and January the sun never rose. I was there working for an architects firm.

4. Why have you moved to Fair Isle and do you think you will be happy living here?

I have moved to work at the Bird Observatory, looking after the guests. I have worked at Spurn Observatory near Hull before. I really enjoyed it. Only 15 people could stay there at a time but it

was very busy with lots of people visiting during the day and lots of activities going on. People could stay at local B&Bs and hotels and come to the Obs during opening times. I enjoyed being here last year so I'm sure I will this year.

5. Tell us about the new Bird Observatory.

The new Obs will be very fancy. All the bedrooms (23 for guests and more for staff) have their own bathroom. There will be a huge bar. I did my test this week so that I can run it. The views out of the Obs are amazing with floor to ceiling windows.

6. What are you busy doing just now?

Arranging the delivery of furniture, kitchen equipment, bedding etc. There are 130 pillows ordered!

7. When do you think the Bird Observatory will open?

We hope to open in May. Other staff are coming at the end of March.

8. What other staff will be coming?

2 housekeepers, 2 cooks, 2 assistant wardens and a ranger. The warden (Alex) is already here.

9. Have you got a favourite joke you can tell us?

My favourite jokes are all too naughty!

10. What is your favourite food?

I like spinach from Pat's garden and pistachio ice-cream.

11. Do you support a football team and if so, who is it?

No I don't support a football team but when I was little my mum made me tell people I supported Newcastle United!

12. What kind of music do you like and do you have a favourite singer/band?

I like loads of music especially older music. I don't like jazz. My favourite band is Fleetwood Mac.

13. Can you play any musical instrument and if so, what is it?

I can't play any musical instrument but I can whistle very well.

14. Do you have a favourite country you have visited?

Yes – I love Finland in the summer because of all the wildlife. I went to Oman about 9 years ago and that was amazing.

We are looking forward to the Bird Observatory opening. More people will come and visit the isle. Thank you to Jonnie for coming in to talk to us. Good luck.

Luca (9) and Ander (7)

ISLE NOTICES

- 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 12th March at 7.30pm, preceded

by a brief AGM for FIDC at 7.00pm. A good attendance is respectfully requested (there will be tea/coffee and homebakes).

- **Reminder - 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](#).
- **Chapel** – All welcome to join in worship at the Chapel at 11am, Susannah will be leading the service.
- **Reminder** - Ragna's Islands Project – The team are now working on content to go into the booklets and exhibition material that we're creating to showcase some of the research we've undertaken. As well as an introduction to the Ragna's Islands Project, a bit of history, and a discussion about Fair Isle's place in the saga, we'd like to include a section on Fair Isle's place-names. We have a few ideas about what we'd like to talk about, but we'd really like to know which place-names intrigue you.

So far, we have looked at bird place-names on the island as well as slopy-names, and those names that indicate they were good spots for getting on and off the island. Are there any other themes that interest you, or individual names on the island that intrigue you? Please get in touch with Corrina (below) if interested.

Corrina, Matthew and Judith.

contact: corinna.rayner1@nottingham.ac.uk

Fair Isle Demonstration and Research MPA - Fair Isle Times update 7th March 2025 – Katie Cubbon, Fair Isle Demonstration and Research MPA Research Officer

- **The Fair Isle DR MPA Winter Newsletter** is now available along with previous editions on FIMRO's website: <https://www.fair-isle-marine.org.uk/fair-isle-dr-mpa/dr-mpa-newsletter/>
- FIMRO are delighted to confirm that the Fair Isle inshore fish survey will be carried out by UHI Shetland for the fourth consecutive year this summer thanks to further funding from the players of the People's Postcode Lottery through the National Trust for Scotland's Love our Nature project.
- **Fair Isle Demonstration and Research MPA community update 7pm Friday 21st March at the Fair Isle community hall.** Katie will be providing a recap of DR MPA priority research progress to date, as well a summary of research plans moving forward. All welcome, with tea, coffee and homebakes. The presentation will be circulated afterwards and there will be opportunity for those who can't attend to make comment or ask questions. It would be great to hear people's thoughts on how research has progressed so far and its future direction.



The Iron horse latterly used by Stewart Thomson of Shirva mentioned by Jimmy recently, Pat & Neil sent this photo from Shetland Museum this week

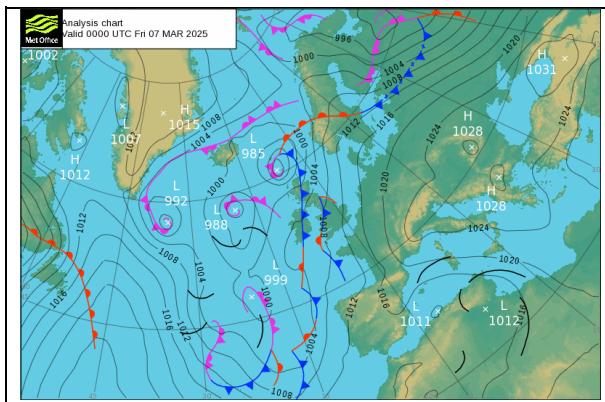


Caption Competition

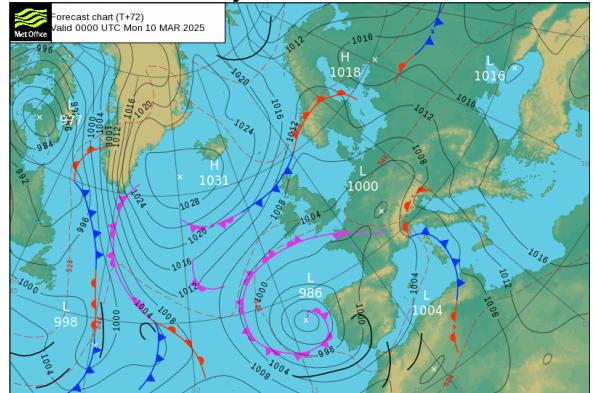
Thanks to Jonnie for this photo, any suggestions for a funny caption?

I'm a dog – woof! (by Ander)
I'm free – almost! (by Luca)

FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
 Friday 7th March 2025



Forecast Chart 0000 UTC
 Monday 10th March 2025

GENERAL SITUATION Friday 07th March 2025

A small depression close to Shetland will move away northwards with a ridge of high pressure, extending into the British Isles from a European anticyclone, building north over the UK. A slack east to north-easterly airflow develops during the weekend as pressure builds in the Iceland area, backing and freshening northerly next week as an anticyclone develops over the north Atlantic. At the moment high pressure is predicted to decline southeast over the British Isles during the second half of next week.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Mild by day at 8° or 9°. Nights a chilly 4° down to 2°.

FRIDAY 7th: A cloudy dry start, a fresh F5 W wind easing F3-4. The afternoon and evening dry with light winds and sunny or clear spells. Dry with clear spells overnight. **Sea State:** Mostly rough at 3 metre W but moderate SW at 2 metre east of Shetland.

SATURDAY 8th: Dry with sunny or clear spells at first, cloud increasing with rain reaching Fair Isle extending north to remainder of Shetland by evening. Light E winds freshening F4 then F5 ENE overnight. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate at 2 metre ESE.

SUNDAY 9th: Cloudy with NE winds freshening F5-6 and rain, this edging away southwards during the afternoon and evening. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate at 2 metre NNE.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK

Colder at 4° or 5° by day, 1° to 3° overnight.

MONDAY 10th: Cloudy with showers, wintry at times, and mainly strong NNE winds. **Sea State:** Mostly rough at 3 to 4 metre NNE.

TUESDAY 11th: Cloudy with wintry showers and fresh N winds. **Sea State:** Moderate or rough at 2 to 3 metre NNW.

WEDNESDAY 12th – SUNDAY 16th: Wednesday cloudy with some wintry showers and fresh NNW winds. Cloudy on Thursday with scattered showers and lighter winds. Friday and the weekend cloudy though mostly dry with mostly light winds. **Sea State Wednesday:** Mostly moderate at 2 metre NW.

Dave Wheeler